

NFL
Age-defying Gore
still running, excited
to help Jets win
Back page



PACIFIC
UN probe: Koreas
violated armistice
in gunfire exchange
Page 3

VIRUS OUTBREAK
Pentagon: Third U.S.
service member dies
from virus complications
Page 5

Online: Get the latest news on the virus outbreak » [stripes.com/coronavirus](https://www.stripes.com/coronavirus)

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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

AFGHANISTAN

Kabul releases 900 Taliban prisoners



PHOTOS BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN/Stars and Stripes

Taliban prisoners line up at Bagram prison before being released on Tuesday. The Afghan government is set to release up to 5,000 prisoners as outlined in a U.S.-Taliban deal signed in February.

Warring sides say they're open to extended cease-fire

By J.P. LAWRENCE
AND PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — About 900 Taliban prisoners were set free from government prisons near Bagram Airfield and elsewhere in Afghanistan on Tuesday, a move that could further an embattled peace process, Afghan officials said.

The release came on the last day of a



A recently freed Taliban prisoner waits to be transported from Bagram prison.

three-day cease-fire between the Taliban and the government to mark the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Fitr.

The government is ready to extend the cease-fire, National Security Council spokesman Javid Faissal told reporters Tuesday, and the Taliban said it would consider doing so as well.

"If these developments, like the announcement of prisoner release continues, it is possible to move forward with decisions like extending the brief cease-fire and to move in a positive direction with some minor issues," a senior Taliban official told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

SEE PRISONERS ON PAGE 5

Blue Ridge makes port call after 70 days at sea

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Sailors aboard the amphibious command ship USS Blue Ridge — at sea more than two months to avoid the coronavirus — finally went ashore for liberty in Okinawa over the weekend, according to the Navy.

The 7th Fleet's flagship moored at White Beach Naval Facility on Sunday, capping off its new record of 70 consecutive days at sea, according to a Navy statement issued that day. The previous record of 64 days was set nearly a half-century ago during the Vietnam War, the Blue Ridge passed that mark on May 17.

The Blue Ridge is the Navy's oldest operational warship and 2020 marks its 50th year in service. The 223-year-old USS Constitution is the Navy's oldest ship, but it does not deploy.

Sailors are allowed a "Safe Haven" liberty to come off the ship but prevent their exposure to the coronavirus, according to the Navy statement. The crewmembers can only access "specific designated areas on the pier and neighboring beach," the statement said.

"It is important to realize that the Blue Ridge has maintained a COVID-free bubble since the outbreak," Blue Ridge commander Capt. Craig Nicola said in the statement. COVID-19 is the respiratory disease caused by the coronavirus.

"We are taking extreme caution to retain this bubble by not allowing any human interaction with personnel outside the bubble and maintaining strict disinfecting procedures for items and equipment on the pier," he added.

The goal is to boost morale and benefit quality-of-life without exposing the crew to the virus that has sidelined other ships in the region, according to the Navy.

SEE CALL ON PAGE 5

BUSINESS/WEATHER

German ruling clears way to settle VW cases

Associated Press

KARLSRUHE, Germany — A German court has ruled that Volkswagen must buy back cars from owners of its diesel cars equipped with software that evaded emissions testing — but consumers must accept the current value of the car based on the mileage they drove since buying it, not the purchase price.

Volkswagen said that the decision announced Monday would clear the way for settlement of re-

maining consumer claims in Germany. The decision affects some 60,000 individual claims brought by car owners there; around 262,000 others have already been covered by a \$904 million class-action settlement.

The case that was decided Monday involved a plaintiff, Herbert Gilbert, who bought a Volkswagen Sharan model in 2014 which was equipped with the software that turned off emissions controls during testing.

He had initially sought the full

purchase price in return, but the court ruled that he must accept less due to depreciation related to the distance he drove.

The individual case is expected to serve as a guideline for others.

Volkswagen was caught cheating by United States authorities in September 2015 and has since paid billions in fines and settlements worldwide.

Two executives went to prison in the U.S. and more are facing criminal proceedings and investigations in Germany.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (May 27)	\$1.07
Dollar buys (May 27)	60.8879
British pound (May 27)	\$1.20
Japanese yen (May 27)	105.00
South Korean won (May 27)	1,206.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3776
British pound	\$1.2340
Canada (Dollar)	1.3630
China (Yuan)	7.1312
Denmark (Krone)	6.7911
Egypt (Pound)	15.8618
Euro	\$1.0980/0.9108
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7520
Hungary (Forint)	316.02
Israel (Shekel)	3.5061
Japan (Yen)	107.63
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3990
Norway (Krone)	8.9958
Philippines (Peso)	50.41
Poland (Zloty)	4.05
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7574
Singapore (Dollar)	1.4166
South Korea (Won)	1,231.53
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9656
Thailand (Baht)	31.89
Turkey (Lira)	6.7014

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.25
Federal funds market rate	0.05
3-month bill	0.12
30-year bond	1.37

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

TODAY IN STRIPES

American Roundup.....14
Classified.....13
Comics18
Crossword18
Faces.....15
Opinion.....16-17
Sports.....20-24

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EUROPE

KRISTI KIMMEL

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

MIDDLE EAST

KRISTI KIMMEL

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

PACIFIC

ICHIRO
KATAYANAGI

PacificAdvertising@stripes.com

ADVERTISING

CML +81 (42) 552.2511 ext. 77313
DSN: 227.7313

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PACIFIC



TERRY WONG/U.S. Marine Corps

Marines with Combat Logistics Regiment 35 participate in a reconnaissance, surveillance and decontamination training course at Camp Kinser, Okinawa, in 2018. The regiment is the first of three to deactivate in order to streamline the force.

Okinawa Marines bid farewell to Combat Logistics Regiment 35

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Marines on Okinawa deactivated the first of three combat logistics regiments slated for elimination in a move meant to streamline the fighting force.

The colors for Combat Logistics Regiment 35 were raised for the final time Friday aboard Camp Kinser in front of an audience of just three, due to the coronavirus, said a Marine Corps statement released Sunday evening.

Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, had served as the headquarters unit for 3rd Maintenance Battalion and 3rd Supply Battalion for 14 years. Those battalions will now serve III Marine Expeditionary Force independently, under the 3rd Marine Logistics Group staff structure.

The move is expected to afford more flexibility in “organizing, training and equipping” the force, the

‘This is part of the Marine Corps getting lighter, faster and more lethal.’

Col. Joon Um commander

statement said. “While it may seem counter-intuitive, deactivation of regimental headquarters can be seen as a small part of the larger, institutional effort to align to the Commandant’s Planning Guidance,” Combat Logistics Regiment 35 commander Col. Joon Um said in the statement. “This is part of the Marine Corps getting lighter, faster and more lethal.”

The Okinawa-based logistics regiment will be joined in retirement later this year by Combat Logistics Regiment 15 at Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Combat Logistics Regiment 25 at Camp Lejeune, N.C., the statement said.

news@stripes.com

Airman dies in crash while on leave

By MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — An airman assigned to Kadena Air Base on Okinawa has died in a car crash while home on leave, Air Force officials said Tuesday.

Airman 1st Class D’Arrius Gilmore, 19, of the 18th Civil Engineer Squadron, was killed Friday in the single-vehicle crash in Nashville, Tenn., 18th Wing

spokeswoman Air Force Lt. Col. Christy Stravolo told Stars and Stripes in an email. The cause of the crash remains under investigation by local authorities.

Gilmore, a Nashville native, was driving a 2013 Chrysler 200 westbound on Interstate 24 near the I-40 east interchange in Nashville at approximately 8:30 p.m., The Tennessean newspaper reported, citing a preliminary investigation by police.

The Chrysler traveled into the center median and struck a light pole, according to The Tennessean. Gilmore was wearing a seat belt but died at the scene.

There was no evidence of drugs or alcohol at the scene, the newspaper reported. A witness told police that the Chrysler was “traveling at a high rate of speed” before the crash.

burke.matt@stripes.com
Twitter: @MatthewMBurke1

Fort Campbell unit to deploy to S. Korea

Associated Press

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. — An aviation unit from Fort Campbell will deploy to South Korea this summer.

The 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, will replace 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regi-

ment, from Fort Hood, Texas, at the end of its rotation.

The Fort Campbell unit will provide crews, maintenance support and aircraft to the region during its nine-month deployment.

The soldiers have adhered to protective measures and procedures to keep themselves safe

while building combat power, resulting in no cases of the coronavirus within the unit, said Col. Matthew Weinschel, commander of the 101st Combat Aviation Brigade.

The Fort Campbell Army post is located along the Kentucky-Tennessee border.

UN probe: Koreas violated armistice in gunfire exchange

By KIM GAMEL
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The United Nations Command on Tuesday accused both Koreas of violating the 1953 armistice agreement during an exchange of gunfire across the border earlier this month, but investigators failed to determine if the North had fired on purpose.

North Korean soldiers fired four rounds of 14.5 mm small arms from a guard post on their side of the Demilitarized Zone upon the U.N. Command guard post 250 at 7:41 a.m. on May 3, the U.N. Command said in a press release.

“However, the investigation was unable to definitively determine if the four rounds were fired intentionally or by mistake,” the command said, adding that North Korea has acknowledged receiving a request for information about the incident but has not offered a formal response.

South Korean guards responded 32 minutes later with two volleys of gunfire and two broadcast warnings toward the North, it said.

South Korea’s military insisted its troops followed proper procedures and expressed regret that the U.N.C. released the results without “a practical investigation of the North Korean gunfire.”

“Our military unit on the ground took appropriate measures according to our response manual,” the defense ministry said in a statement.

It also promised to continue to work to implement an inter-Korean military agreement signed in September 2018 and to take other measures aimed at easing tensions between the two nations.

The U.N. Command, which is led by Gen. Robert Abrams, who also commands U.S. Forces Korea and is in charge of enforcing the armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War in lieu of a peace treaty, launched a probe shortly after the incident.

The DMZ, about 155 miles long and 2.5 miles wide, has often been a flashpoint between the two Koreas and past violence has pushed the two countries to the brink of conflict.

Tens of thousands of combat troops are on both sides of the border, which is lined with barbed wire fences and filled with land mines.

Investigators determined that both sides “committed armistice agreement violations with unauthorized small arms fire across the Military Demarcation Line,” said Army Col. Lee Peters, a spokesman for the U.N. Command.

The command said it had the full cooperation of the South Korean military and will conduct follow-up discussions with both sides “to encourage an implementation of measures” to prevent further armistice violations.

The findings provided new details but shed little light on how the exchange of gunfire began.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and South Korean military officials have said they believe that North Korean troops fired accidentally because it was foggy and reportedly the time for a shift change during which weapons are tested. Firing on the northern side of the border was said to have continued uninterrupted during the incident.

gamel.kim@stripes.com
Twitter: @kimgame1
chang.kyong@stripes.com



LEE JIN-MAH/AP

A map of the two Koreas showing the Demilitarized Zone is seen at the Injeung Pavilion in Paju, South Korea, on Tuesday. A U.N. investigation into a recent exchange of gunfire between the two Koreas has determined that both countries violated the armistice.

MILITARY

Report: Counter Russia's Black Sea moves

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany—The U.S.-led NATO alliance is paying too little attention to the threat posed by Russia in the Black Sea, which Moscow sees as a launchpad into the wider region, said a report co-authored by the former head of U.S. Army Europe.

“What was once a Russian naval backwater is now the centerpiece of Moscow’s power projection into the Mediterranean ... It is evidently more willing to use force in the Black Sea region than anywhere else along the Eastern Flank,” retired Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges said in the report released Tuesday by the Center for European Policy Analysis.

Titled “One Flank, One Threat, One Presence: A Strategy for NATO’s Eastern Flank,” the report, co-authored by Hodges and security analyst Janusz Bugajski, argues that NATO has focused on building up in the Baltics with multinational battlegroups and other measures, and overlooked the Black Sea region.

It recommends changes that would put the Black Sea “in the middle of the geostrategic map.”

NATO’s limited, “tailored” presence in Romania, for instance, should be upgraded to an Enhanced Forward Presence, similar to what allies have in the Baltic states and Poland, the report said.

Romania should be the “center of gravity” of NATO’s regional deterrence strategy and be reinforced with command and control capabilities, and improved rail



KYLE STECKLER/U.S. Navy

The guided-missile destroyer USS Carney sails in the Black Sea in July. A new report authored by former U.S. Army Europe commander Ben Hodges and security analyst Janusz Bugajski states that the U.S.-led NATO alliance is paying too little attention to the threat posed by Russia in the Black Sea.

and road infrastructure, it said.

Unmanned maritime systems and ground-based systems could be based in Romania, including anti-ship missiles, drones and rotary wing attack aircraft, and used to bolster NATO defenses in the western Black Sea, the report said.

It also calls for a Black Sea Maritime Policing mission to be established for a year-round NATO naval presence.

The current “tiered approach to deterrence capabilities created a degree of incoherence along the Eastern Flank, in ef-

fect yielding the initiative in the Black Sea region to the Kremlin, putting strains on the cohesion of the Alliance, and exposing NATO to continued aggressive probing from Russia,” it said.

The report also makes the case for upgrades in Poland and the Baltics, and suggests that NATO should adjust how it measures defense spending among allies.

Repeated demands by President Donald Trump that allies increase their spending on military matters to at least 2% of economic output have been a source of tension in the alliance.

But Hodges argues that spending with clear military value such as investment in storage and distribution infrastructure for military fuel security — should count toward the 2% spending benchmark.

“This should be part of a broader discussion within the Alliance to reframe ‘burden-sharing’ into the notion of ‘responsibility-sharing,’” the report said.

The Black Sea was, however, the main focus of the report.

Hodges, who led USAREUR until 2018, has argued that the region holds greater strategic and

The report calls for a Black Sea Maritime Policing Mission to be established for a year-round NATO naval presence.

economic importance for Moscow than the Baltic region.

Hodges was a lead architect of the Army’s expanded mission in Europe following Russian aggression in Ukraine, where it sent troops in 2014 to help separatists in the east. The push resulted in the annexation by Russia of the Crimean Peninsula.

Elsewhere in the region, Russia fought a brief war in 2008 with the Republic of Georgia and continues to have troops in that country’s breakaway regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia. And in 2018, Russia opened fire on Ukrainian vessels in the Black Sea’s Kerch Strait and seized Ukrainian sailors.

“Russia’s subversion, probing, and interventions along the Eastern Flank could develop into several outright conflicts along NATO’s Eastern Flank. It is for this reason that the Alliance needs to make preparations — whether to deter escalation, defuse an armed conflict, or defend against outright military confrontation,” the report stated.

vandiver.john@stripes.com
Twitter: @john_vandiver

AFRICOM: Moscow is aiding warlord with planes in Libya

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Russia has flown warplanes to Libya in a move aimed at proping up a warlord and possibly gaining a permanent foothold in the war-torn country, the U.S. military said Tuesday.

A proxy war is playing out in Libya between numerous nations, including Russia, which has mercenaries on the ground lending support to the Libyan National Army led by Khalifa Hifter.

“The Russian fighter aircraft arrived in Libya, from an airbase in Russia, after transiting Syria where it is assessed they were repainted to camouflage their Russian origin,” U.S. AFRICOM command said Tuesday in a statement.

The aircraft are likely to provide close air support and offensive strikes for the Wagner Group — Russian mercenaries supporting Hifter’s forces, AFRICOM said.

At least 14 Russian aircraft

were sent to Libya, including MiG-29 Fulcrums and Su-35 Flankers, AFRICOM said in a response to a Stars and Stripes query.

The deployment also raises other concerns for U.S. military leaders, who say Russia is pursuing strategic goals unrelated to “what is best for the Libyan people.”

“If Russia seizes basing on Libya’s coast, the next logical step is they deploy permanent long-range anti-access area denial (A2AD) capabilities,” said Gen. Jeff Harrigan, commander of U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa, in the statement.

“If that day comes, it will create very real security concerns on Europe’s southern flank.” Libya has been in chaos since the NATO-led intervention in the country in 2011, which led to the overthrow of strongman Moammar Gadhafi. Militias have fought for control while the internationally recognized government in Tripoli struggles to assert itself.

While the U.S. and other countries such as Turkey back the

Government of National Accord, Moscow has sided with Hifter.

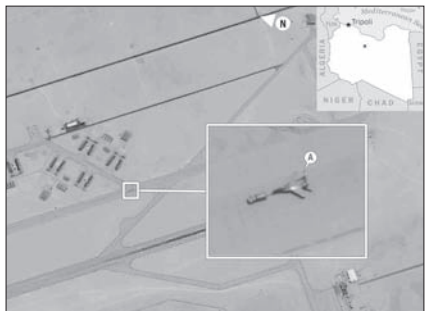
“Russia is clearly trying to tip the scales in its favor in Libya,” AFRICOM boss Gen. Stephen Townsend said in the statement. “Just like I saw them doing in Syria, they are expanding their military footprint in Africa using government-supported mercenary groups like Wagner.”

In November, the U.S. also accused Russian air defense systems of downing an AFRICOM drone over Libya.

Townsend said Russia has long denied the extent of its involvement in the Libyan conflict.

“Well, there is no denying it now,” Townsend said. “We watched as Russia flew fourth generation jet fighters to Libya — every step of the way.”

Neither Hifter’s army nor private military companies can arm, operate and sustain the aircraft without Russian state support, AFRICOM said. Russia has employed the state-sponsored Wagner Group in Libya to conceal its direct role, the statement added.



U.S. Africa Command

U.S. Africa Command says this photo shows a Russian MiG-29 jet at Al Jufra Airfield, Libya, on May 19. Top U.S. generals say Russia is aiding a warlord and could be trying to gain a foothold in Libya.

In recent weeks, fighting in Libya has intensified. There have been media reports that Hifter’s forces have faced setbacks because of an increase in military support from Turkey for the Western-backed government.

When Hifter launches a new air campaign, that will be “Russian mercenary pilots flying Russian-supplied aircraft to bomb

Libyans,” Townsend said.

In April 2019, Hifter’s offensive on Tripoli forced the U.S. to pull a small cadre of troops out of Libya.

However, the U.S. continues to routinely conduct surveillance operations in Libya in coordination with the national government.

vandiver.john@stripes.com
Twitter: @john_vandiver

MILITARY



PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN/Stars and Stripes

A Taliban prisoner at Bagram prison Tuesday receives the equivalent of about \$65 after having his thumbprint taken and signing a pledge not to return to the battlefield. About 900 prisoners were released across the country Tuesday.

Prisoners: Inmates signed pledge not to return to battlefield

FROM FRONT PAGE

The released inmates had their biometric data recorded and signed a pledge not to return to the battlefield.

However, Maj. Gen. Noorhullah Kadiri, the military police commander at Bagram prison, one of the country's largest detention facilities, said he was skeptical that all would keep the pledge.

"If they're going to go back to the battlefield, then it's up to them," Kadiri said.

Bagram released roughly 600 prisoners Tuesday, more than any other facility, said Nasifullah Totakhail, a member of the Defense Ministry's release committee. There are about 17,000 Taliban prisoners in government detention, Totakhail said.

President Ashraf Ghani ordered the release of 2,000 Taliban prisoners in a speech Sunday morning following the cease-fire agreement.

"I announce that the Taliban prisoner release process will (move quickly) and serious steps will be taken," Ghani said, while also calling on the militant group to release its government and military captives.

The cease-fire halted rising violence in the country, with both the Taliban and the government



Two Taliban inmates wait to be freed.

launching offensives.

Prisoner exchanges between the Taliban and the Afghan government were a condition of starting intra-Afghan talks laid out in a deal signed between the U.S. and the Taliban on Feb. 29.

Disagreements over the exchanges, along with political infighting in Kabul and increased attacks by the Taliban, have strained the agreement in the months following the signing.

The deal called for up to 5,000 militants and up to 1,000 government personnel to walk free.

Before this week, the Afghan government had released about 1,000 Taliban prisoners, compared to about 250 set free by militants, Ghani's office said.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.

lawrence.jp@stripes.com
Twitter: @jplawrence3
wellman.phillip@stripes.com
Twitter: @pwwellman

Pentagon: 3rd US service member dies from virus

By COREY DICKSTEIN

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A third U.S. service member has died from complications after contracting the coronavirus, the Pentagon said Tuesday, as reported cases among military troops surpassed 6,000 during Memorial Day weekend.

The Defense Department included the new death in its daily release of its latest coronavirus-related data. Officials did not immediately provide additional information about the death, including when or where the service member died or to which service he or she belonged.

The death was among three new deaths within the Defense Department community that the Pentagon reported since Friday. Two new Defense Department civilian employee deaths were also reported.

The latest spike in reported deaths during the long weekend brought the coronavirus-related fatalities worldwide among service members, their dependents, DOD civilian workers and defense contractors to 35. Defense Department civilians have been the hardest hit among that group with 18 deaths. Five military dependents and 9 contractors have died since the pandemic began earlier this year.

The reports of the death Tuesday came after the Pentagon reported five deaths within its community last week.

As of Tuesday, the Pentagon said 9,173 DOD community members had contracted the disease.

Service members accounted for the vast majority of those cases. The Pentagon said 6,118 troops

had tested positive. Among them, 165 had spent some amount of time in a hospital and 3,460 have since recovered.

The Navy reported the most cases with 2,376, as of Tuesday. The Army, the largest military service, reported 1,315 cases. The Air Force reported 475 cases, the Marine Corps reported 543 and 1,278 members of the Army and Air National Guard have tested positive for the virus. The Pentagon also said another 131 service members assigned to other agencies had contracted the coronavirus.

Among its other categories, the Pentagon reported that 1,433 DOD civilian employees, 1,042 military dependents and 580 defense contractors had contracted the disease as of Tuesday.

The latest service member's death is the first since Navy Chief Petty Officer Robert Thacker Jr. died of complications of the coronavirus April 13 at U.S. Naval Hospital Guam.

The 41-year-old sailor was among more than 1,000 crew members to contract the disease aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt, by far the military's worst coronavirus outbreak.

Army Capt. Douglas Linn Hickock, a member of the New Jersey National Guard, died March 28. Hickock, a 57-year-old physician assistant, was preparing to activate as part of the pandemic response just before he was hospitalized with the virus and died one week later.

dickstein.corey@stripes.com
Twitter: @CDicksteinDC

Call: Sailors allowed 'Safe Haven' liberty to help protect them from virus

FROM FRONT PAGE

The USS Theodore Roosevelt spent about two months in Guam after a coronavirus outbreak ultimately infected about a fourth of the aircraft carrier's crew.

"It is not lost on me how difficult a longer than normal deployment can be on top of the stress of the COVID pandemic on my Sailors and their families," Sicola said in the statement. "These types of port calls are absolutely required to restore our mental readiness, stay healthy, and enable us to fight another day."

Several recreational activities have been arranged for sailors in their designated liberty area, including wireless internet and

sporting events, including softball, soccer and volleyball. Sailors can also swim in the ocean and lounge at the beach.

Sailors also could order personal items from the Navy Exchange to be delivered pier-side during the limited liberty, according to the statement. The items are fully disinfected before they are brought aboard.

"Providing pier-side delivery was an excellent way to help Sailors get the items they need to keep them running their best during deployment," the Blue Ridge's disbursing officer, Lt. J.g. Raymond Kosak, said in the statement.

doornbos.caitlin@stripes.com
Twitter: @CaitlinDoornbos



MATTHEW DICKINSON/U.S. Navy

The U.S. 7th Fleet flagship USS Blue Ridge arrives at White Beach Naval Facility, Okinawa, on Sunday.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Some in Tokyo anxious after emergency lifted

Many concerned virus numbers will spike again

By HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — Citizens of Japan's capital expressed concern that the coronavirus will rise again after the government ended a 42-day state of emergency in all areas of Japan, including Tokyo, where the pandemic was most deeply felt.

"I'm happy that the state of emergency is lifted, but, on the other hand, there are things I'm concerned about," university student Akari Izuchi, 23, said Tuesday. "This virus is an unknown virus. We don't know how it will spread from now on."

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, during a televised press conference Monday announced his decision to end restrictions. He said the number of new daily cases had declined and hospitals are able to admit new patients. Nationwide, the number of newly infected patients is under 50, with fewer than 2,000 hospitalized, "which at one point was over 10,000," he said.

Abe said people need to adapt to a new ordinary lifestyle now that the state of emergency has been lifted.

"We cannot keep up with our jobs and life itself with the way we have taken until now, which strictly restricted socioeconomic activities," he said, adding that Japanese citizens must find fresh ways to interact socially and economically.

Abe also removed restrictions for the neighboring prefectures of Kanagawa, Chiba and Saitama and in Hokkaido. They were the last areas of Japan still under the emergency declaration after it was lifted in Osaka and two neighboring prefectures Thursday.

In limited areas, including Tokyo, then later expanded it nationwide and extended it to the end of May. People were asked but not forced to stay at home; nonessential businesses were asked to close or reduce operations.

U.S. military bases in the Tokyo metro area remain under a public health emergency declared April 15 by U.S. Forces Japan. Restrictions vary by installation but typically limit travel to off-base homes and workplaces and shopping for essential services only.

Those restrictions are scheduled to end

"From now on, it is important to think about how we can carry out [events] and still control the risk of being infected and not to cancel because there is a risk."

Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

June 14, except at Yokota Air Base in western Tokyo, where they may last until June 30.

On Okinawa, the Air Force and Marines relaxed on- and off-base restrictions May 20.

As a first step in Tokyo, some museums and schools reopened Tuesday and restaurants and bars were allowed to stay open until 10 p.m., according to the city website. The next step is to relax measures at other businesses such as movie theaters.

Japanese TV showed shops resuming business in the Asakusa district of Tokyo and the Ameyoko shopping street in the Ueno district. Elementary schoolchildren were spotted walking to class. More commuters were at train and subway stations and on the streets compared to earlier this month.

Shin Fukumi, 47, who works for an office managing company, said he is worried about a second wave of the pandemic to hit. He pointed to Hokkaido prefecture, in northern Japan, which declared its own emergency in February and managed to reduce the rate of infections. But the number of coronavirus cases increased after the declaration was lifted in April.

"I think it was too early" to lift the state of emergency, he said.

Professional sports, such as baseball, will resume next month without spectators, Abe said during Monday's press conference. Concerts and other events will also resume for groups of about 100 people and gradually increase to 50% of a venue's occupancy rate.

"From now on, it is important to think



PHOTOS BY AKIFUMI ISHIKAWA/Stars and Stripes

A video of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe plays on a large screen in the Shibuya district of central Tokyo on Friday. Abe on Monday announced his decision to lift restrictions on all areas of Japan.



People ponder lunchtime takeout options in Omotesando, Tokyo.

about how we can carry out [events] and still control the risk of being infected and not to cancel because there is a risk," he said.

The Japanese government will assess the epidemiological situation every three weeks and plans to gradually relax restrictions. It plans to introduce a smartphone app in mid-June that lets people know if they had been in close contact with an infected person. The government also plans more antigen-detection tests.

However, Abe said people should not let their guard down against the coronavirus.

"The virus surely exists around us even after the state of emergency is lifted," he said. It could spread instantly as soon as

people fail to take preventative measures. "There is a constant fear for the next epidemic."

In Kanagawa prefecture, home of Yokosuka Naval Base, Camp Zama and other U.S. military facilities, Gov. Yuji Kuroiwa, in a video posted on the prefecture's website, asked residents not to go to nightclubs and bars, and not to unnecessarily travel across the prefectural border.

He said restaurants and bars may stay open until 10 p.m. starting Wednesday but requested they post a checklist of preventative measures so customers can make informed decisions.

kusumoto.hana@stripes.com
Twitter: @HanaKusumoto

S. Korea calls for face masks for all using public transportation



MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

People wait for a public bus outside Camp Humphreys, South Korea, on March 16. South Korea has mandated face masks for everyone using public transportation.

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — People using public transportation in South Korea must wear face masks as part of new governmental measures to prevent the further spread of the coronavirus.

South Korea has eased many restrictions as the number of coronavirus cases declined, but health authorities remain worried about cluster outbreaks for more than 200 infections were linked to nightclubs and bars in recent weeks.

All passengers and drivers on buses, taxis and subways were required to wear masks beginning Tuesday, while air travelers on

domestic and international routes will have to wear them starting Wednesday, according to the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport.

The decision came as officials expressed concern that fewer people are wearing masks amid warmer temperatures that make them uncomfortable.

Passengers without face masks will not be allowed to board, although they won't be penalized for not following the rule, South Korean media reported. Drivers and train staff also will be temporarily exempted from the normal punishment for refusing passengers.

Masks are available for purchase at convenience stores and vending machines if needed.

Many cities, including Seoul and Daegu, already have mandated face masks on a more limited basis. Seoul, for example, began requiring them on subways during rush hours while adding train cars and buses to reduce passenger congestion earlier this month.

South Korea reported 19 new cases Tuesday for a total of 11,225, with 269 deaths, since the virus first appeared in China last year.

news@stripes.com

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Federal workers see risks in Trump's push to reopen US

By NICK WADHAMS
Bloomberg News

As President Donald Trump presses states to reopen, government workers and their unions have said they're increasingly concerned that their bosses will force them back to the office without sufficient protection.

Agencies' approaches to returning to offices have been uneven, they said. Although the Securities and Exchange Commission's chief told many workers to plan on staying home through at least mid-July, the Internal Revenue Service has called back 11,000 workers to begin processing paper tax returns, responding to a backlog of mail and answering taxpayer calls.

Workers at some agencies who are already back — or who never left — have reported wide variations in their employers' attitude toward safety. For starters, there are no plans for broad testing or contact-tracing. The haphazard approach has led to confusing and often contradictory messages being sent to more than 2 million federal workers, 85% of whom live outside the greater Washington, D.C., region.

"Their lives shouldn't be taken for granted, and that's the way we feel right now," said Everett

Kelley, president of the American Federation of Government Employees, which represents about 700,000 government workers.

"Agencies are trying to appease some in this hierarchy by saying, 'OK, we're going to reopen,' but the reality is that it's just not feasible."

The government's dilemma is one that many large companies have struggled to address. Banks including Citigroup Inc. and Goldman Sachs Group Inc. are trying to figure out how employees can safely return, exploring policies from alternating teams that would rotate through offices on a staggered basis to seeking ways to better monitor employee health so that another outbreak can be quickly thwarted. In a sign that telework is here to stay, Twitter Inc. has told some staff that they can work from home permanently.

Asked to respond to criticism about the federal approach to reopening, the Office of Personnel Management issued a statement saying that "as conditions warrant across each state, Federal agencies are working to return to normal operations. Our Federal workers have shown tremendous fortitude in keeping the U.S. strong throughout this emergency."

Many employees at key national security agencies such as the CIA, Pentagon and State Department have been hard-pressed to work from home during the pandemic simply because classified documents they need can often only be reviewed in secure facilities, not on a laptop at home.

At the State Department, the "Diplomacy Strong" back-to-work plan for when employees return en masse provides few requirements for temperature checks or social distancing, and masks are encouraged but not required.

That's in line with Secretary Michael Pompeo's approach to the pandemic — he's rarely worn a mask in public — and few top aides are seen in them at the State Department. As one of Trump's closest and most fervent supporters, Pompeo seems to be following the lead of President Trump, who has said that he doesn't want the media to catch him wearing a mask.

State Department staff have been given three masks that can be washed and reused several times, but haven't been told to expect much more.

At the IRS, staff is being provided with hand sanitizer, masks and gloves, though supply levels aren't consistent at different IRS facilities, said Chad Hooper, an

IRS official and president of the Professional Managers Association, which represents the tax agency's managers.

The IRS is also offering incentive pay of 10% to 25% to workers to return, largely to perform work that can't be done at home, either for practical or taxpayer privacy reasons.

But the resumption of work at IRS processing centers hasn't been uniformly smooth. Days after reopening a facility in Kansas City, Mo., the IRS had to close it for several days after an employee tested positive for COVID-19. Nonetheless, the IRS plans to order thousands more employees to return to work June 1 in states, including Texas, Utah and Kentucky, that have relaxed lockdowns.

National Park employees are more dependent on the patchwork of shifting regulations at the state level than are their counterparts at more centralized agencies. Interior Secretary David Bernhardt said that decisions over reopening at his department's 419 historic battlefields, natural sites and heritages areas are made based on local conditions overlaid by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

The SEC, an independent agency, may have the most far-reach-

ing — and cautious — policy so far. Chairman Jay Clayton told employees in an email this month that mandatory telework will remain in effect until at least July 15 for the vast majority of the agency's 4,000-plus employees. Clayton said that the move was intended to provide some near-term certainty for staff.

The push and pull among government agencies echoes the battle going on across the nation, where stay-at-home orders, back-to-business moves and even the wearing of masks and other protective gear have often taken on political connotations.

Interviews with union representatives, federal employees and experts have shown a perception that political appointees want to show up at the office as a sign of loyalty to Trump. Other workers feel under pressure to go to the office and express wariness about donning masks for fear that it will displease their superiors.

"There's a lack of leadership which would ensure employees that they'll be taken care of," said Paul Light, a professor of public service at New York University. "There's all this turmoil in the personnel system and that doesn't set it up for an agile response to orders to go home and come back."

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VIRUS OUTBREAK



JOHN ROARK, THE IDAHO POST-REGISTER/AP

An employee cuts steaks Thursday at Jones Meat and Food Services in Rigby, Idaho.

Worker shortage concerns loom in immigrant-heavy meatpacking

By STEPHEN GROVES
AND SOPHIA TAREEN
Associated Press

SIoux FALLS, S.D. — When Martha Kebede's adult sons immigrated from Ethiopia and reunited with her in South Dakota this year, they had few work opportunities.

Lacking English skills, the brothers took jobs at Smithfield Foods' Sioux Falls pork plant, grueling and increasingly risky work as the coronavirus sickened thousands of meatpacking workers nationwide. One day, half the workers on a slicing line vanished; later, the brothers tested positive for the COVID-19 virus.

"It was very, very sad," Kebede said. "The boys teared up seeing everyone."

The brothers — who declined to be identified for fear of workplace retaliation — are among roughly 175,000 immigrants in U.S. meatpacking jobs. The industry has historically relied on foreign-born workers — from people in the country illegally to refugees — for some of America's most dangerous jobs.

Now that reliance and uncertainty about a virus that's killed at least 20 workers and temporarily shuttered several plants fuels concerns about possible labor shortages to meet demand for beef, pork and chicken.

Companies struggling to hire before the pandemic are spending millions on fresh incentives. Their hiring capability hinges on unemployment, President Donald Trump's aggressive and erratic immigration policies, industry changes and employees' feelings about safety.

Trump has restricted nearly all immigration, but his administration recently granted seasonal workers 60-day extensions, affecting a few in meat and poultry.

Roughly 350 foreign workers were certified for meat and poultry gigs in 2019, according to Daniel Costa at the Economic

Policy Institute. Such H-2B visa holders, capped at 66,000 annually, are commonly used in landscaping and resorts.

But there's been willingness to expand. A plan to add 35,000 seasonal workers — which Trump supports in tight labor markets — was suspended in April for "present economic circumstances."

Immigrants make up nearly 40% of the industry's roughly 470,000 workers, with higher concentrations in states like South Dakota, where they are 58% of workers, and Nebraska, where they're 66%, according to the nonprofit Migration Policy Institute. Estimates on illegal immigrants vary from 14% to the majority at some plants.

The industry has argued that it offers ample jobs with benefits and opportunities to advance for all workers. Paulina Francisco said that her 21 years at Smithfield in Sioux City, Iowa, helped her buy a home, something she didn't think possible when she immigrated from Guatemala. She's now a citizen.

Still, most jobs are rural, limiting workers' access to lawyers, favorable union laws and other jobs. Hourly pay averages as low as \$12.50 for backbreaking work, often conducted side-by-side. Workers in the country illegally fear deportation for speaking up.

"Vulnerable populations work well for them," Joshua Specht, a University of Notre Dame professor, said of the industry.

Chicken plants extensively recruited immigrants in the 1990s as union organizing among majority African American workers increased. One Morton, Miss., plant advertised in Miami's Cuban stores and newspapers, busying workers willing to accept lower wages, a tactic replicated across the South, according to University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill anthropologist Angela Stuesse.

It was initially immigrants with work authorization, but they were replaced by Mexicans and

Guatemalans here illegally. Argentines, Uruguayans and Peruvians followed. By the 2000s, the labor pool was self-sustaining with word-of-mouth.

"This is part of the way this industry works is by having these different communities they can lean into to keep costs down and keep the lines running," said Stuesse.

One window into the industry's response to sudden labor shortages is immigration raids.

In 2006, agents swept Swift & Co. plants, netting 1,300 arrests, the largest single-worksite raid in U.S. history.

Full production resumed within months. One Greeley, Colo., plant offered more pay, hiring about 75 workers, mainly U.S. citizens and Somali refugees, according to the Center for Immigration Studies, which supports restricting immigration.

Today, meatpacking has the fifth-highest concentration of refugee workers, according to the nonprofit Fiscal Policy Institute.

Sudanese refugee Salaheldin Ahmed, 44, heard about Smithfield's jobs while in New Hampshire and moved to South Dakota six years ago. After escaping war, little fates the forklift driver, not even a positive COVID-19 test.

"They were killing in front of you," Ahmed, who experienced mild symptoms, said of atrocities he once witnessed. "The coronavirus is nothing."

The North American Meat Institute estimated that most plants are at 70% production. Many added Plexiglas barriers and other protections.

Little, the institute spokeswoman, noted that many meatpacking companies continued to pay employees even when plants shuttered and suggested that more people might be drawn to meatpacking amid high unemployment.

"There's so many unknowns," she said. "I don't know what's in store for us."

Congress mulls aid moves: Hit 'pause' or 'go big'

By LISA MASCARO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress is at a crossroads in the coronavirus crisis, wrestling over whether to "go big," as House Speaker Nancy Pelosi wants for the next relief bill, or hit "pause," as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell insists.

It's a defining moment for the political parties heading toward the election and one that will affect the livelihoods of countless Americans suddenly dependent on the federal government. Billions of dollars in state aid, jobless benefits and health resources are at stake. As questions mount over Washington's proper role, it's testing the ability of President Donald Trump and Congress to do the right thing.

"These are the eternal debates in American history," said Richard Sylla, a professor emeritus of economic and financial history at New York University.

"It's a bit like what Alexander Hamilton was facing in 1790," he said, describing a plan to have the new federal government assume the Revolutionary War debts of the states, despite protests of a bailout. It was, he said, as Hamilton framed it, "the price of liberty."

As negotiations develop on Capitol Hill, the coronavirus response offers Congress an opportunity to shape the country's post-pandemic future, but also carries the risk of repeating mistakes of past crises, including the 2008-09 recession, that history does not easily forget.

Trump and McConnell huddled late last week on next steps after rejecting Pelosi's plan. The Democratic speaker set the table with passage of the sweeping \$3 trillion coronavirus relief bill, which includes \$1 trillion to shore up state and cities to avert municipal layoffs, \$120 billion to Americans and other aid.

"We could have done bigger," Pelosi told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

With more than 38 million unemployment claims, the Republican response centers on kick-starting the economy to reduce the need for more federal intervention.

Republican priorities are to wean Americans off unemployment benefits to nudge people back to work and provide liability protections for businesses that reopen.

Republicans want to eliminate the \$600 weekly unemployment benefit boost, arguing that it "handcuffs" some employees with higher pay than they earn at their jobs. McConnell also wants to protect doctors, schools and

others from COVID-19-related lawsuits — a "red line," he said, for any deal.

"There's a high likelihood we will do another rescue package," McConnell said on Fox News. "We need to work smart here."

The political and economic debate stretches beyond the halls of Congress as wary Americans await Washington's next move. It was Federal Reserve Board Chairman Jerome Powell who counseled Pelosi to rely on historically low interest rates to "go big" while Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin warned of "permanent damage" to the economy unless businesses reopen.

"The American people need to understand the choices they have," said North Carolina Sen. Thom Tillis, one of the most endangered Republicans seeking reelection in the fall, during an online forum with the Koch network-backed Americans for Prosperity.

Tillis opposes Pelosi's "manifesto" and doesn't expect the Senate to act before July. He said of the GOP-held Senate, "We're a bulkhead against bad happening."

Despite rare bipartisan support for earlier aid, the \$2 trillion bill approved in March, neither side was particularly pleased with the outcome, the largest federal intervention in U.S. history.

Polling, however, showed that Americans favored the federal response, even as they had some concerns about spending.

An AP-NORC poll conducted in late March found that elements of the stimulus package were widely popular. The poll found that about 9 in 10 Americans favored the federal government providing funding to small businesses and hospitals.

About 8 in 10 said that they were in favor of suspending evictions and foreclosures, giving lump-sum payments to Americans, increasing unemployment benefits and suspending student loan payment.

A mid-April NBC/Wall Street Journal poll showed registered voters somewhat more likely to say that they were concerned about the federal government spending too much on economic stimulus and driving up the budget deficit than they were worried that too little money would be spent, lengthening the recession 48% to 40%. The remaining 12% said that they didn't know.

Democratic Sen. Debbie Stabenow acknowledged that the \$3 trillion proposal is a "big number." But she said on her drive home to hard-hit Michigan, "The speed of inaction will be much higher."

VIRUS OUTBREAK

WHO warns first wave of pandemic not over

Associated Press

BANGKOK — As Brazil and India struggle with surging coronavirus cases, a top health expert is warning that the world is still smack in the middle of the pandemic, dampening hopes for a speedy global economic rebound and renewed international travel.

"Right now, we're not in the second wave. We're right in the middle of the first wave globally," said Dr. Mike Ryan, the World Health Organization's executive director.

"We're still very much in a phase where the disease is actually on the way up," Ryan told reporters, pointing to South America, South Asia and other areas where infections are still on the rise.

India saw a record single-day jump in new cases for the seventh straight day. It reported 6,535 new infections Tuesday, raising its total to 145,380, including 4,167 deaths.

The virus has taken hold in some of India's poorest, most densely populated areas, underscoring the challenges that authorities face in curbing the spread of a virus for which a vaccine or cure isn't yet in sight.

Most of India's cases are concentrated in the western states of Maharashtra, home to the financial hub of Mumbai, and Gujarat. Infections have also climbed in the east as migrant workers stranded by lockdowns returned to their native villages from India's largest cities.

Despite this, India allowed domestic flights to resume Monday following a two-month hiatus, but at a fraction of normal traffic levels.

WHO poured cold water on Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro's hopes of quickly reopening the economy, warning that authorities must first have enough testing in place to control the spread of the virus. Brazil has 375,000 coronavirus infections — second only to the 1.6 million cases in the U.S. — and has counted over 23,000 deaths but many fear Brazil's true toll is



R S IYER/AP

Schoolchildren wearing masks get their temperatures checked Tuesday as they arrive for state board examinations in Kochi, India. The country reported a record single-day jump in new cases for the seventh straight day.

much higher.

Ryan said Brazil's "intense" transmission rates means it should keep some stay-at-home measures in place, regardless of the negative impacts on its economy.

In Europe, Russia reported a record daily spike Tuesday of 174 deaths, bringing the country's confirmed death toll to 3,807. Russia's coronavirus caseload surpassed 350,000 — the third highest in the world — with almost 9,000 new infections registered.

The country's comparatively low mortality rate has raised questions among experts. Russian officials, however, vehemently deny manipulating any figures and attribute the low numbers to the effectiveness of the country's lockdown measures.

The question of who can travel where and when remains a dilemma that officials still have yet to solve.

Spain's foreign minister said Tuesday that European Union members should commonly agree to open borders and jointly determine which non-EU countries are designated as safe for travel. Arancha Gonzalez Laya told Cadena SER radio that resuming cross-border travel should be decided collectively even if countries in the 27-nation bloc are phasing out lockdowns at different dates.

"We have to start working with our European partners to retake the freedom of movement in European territories," she said.

Indonesia said it will deploy 340,000 se-

curity forces in 25 cities to enforce health protocols as the world's fourth most populous nation prepares to reopen shopping centers and other businesses in the capital Jakarta on June 4.

Estonia, a country known for its high-tech approach, has started a trial using a mobile phone and online app that shares a person's health data. The app dubbed ImmunityPass generates a temporary QR-code that can be shared with others to demonstrate that someone is virus free.

On the medical front, WHO said it will temporarily drop hydroxychloroquine — the malaria drug U.S. President Donald Trump said he took — from its global study into experimental COVID-19 treatments. The announcement came after a paper in the Lancet showed that people taking the drug were at higher risk of death and heart problems.

Still, several countries in Europe and North Africa are using chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine to treat COVID-19 patients.

Other treatments in the WHO study, including the experimental drug remdesivir and an HIV combination therapy, are still being pursued.

Britain's medicines agency said Tuesday it has authorized the use of remdesivir to treat adults and teenagers hospitalized with severe COVID-19.

Clinical trials testing the antiviral are still under way globally, but initial results have suggested it can speed up the recovery time for people infected with the new coronavirus.

Worldwide, the virus has infected nearly 5.5 million people, killing over 346,000, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. Europe has had about 170,000 deaths and the U.S. has seen nearly 100,000. Experts say the tally understates the real effects of the pandemic due to counting issues in many nations.

Sweden steadfast in strategy as virus toll continues to rise

Associated Press

STOCKHOLM — Sweden's government defended its response to the COVID-19 global pandemic on Tuesday despite the Scandinavian country now reporting one of the highest mortality rates in the world with 4,125 fatalities, or about 40 deaths per 100,000 people.

"Transmission is slowing down, the treatment of COVID-19 patients in intensive care is decreasing significantly, and the rising death toll curve has been flattened," Foreign Minister Ann Linde told foreign correspondents at a briefing in Stockholm. "There is no full lockdown of Sweden, but many parts of the Swedish society have shut down."

Unemployment, which now stands at 7.9%, is expected to climb higher.

Sweden took a relatively soft approach to fighting the coronavirus, one that attracted international attention. Large gatherings

"In retrospect, I think it would have been worthwhile trying the strategy of Denmark, Norway and Iceland and Finland."

Annika Linde
former state epidemiologist

were banned, but restaurants and schools for younger children have stayed open. The government has urged social distancing, and Swedes have largely complied.

But opponents to the government's strategy gained an influential voice this week after the country's former state epidemiologist, Annika Linde, expressed doubt about the strategy adopted by the Swedish health authority. She said that in retrospect she believes an early lockdown could have saved lives.

"Most likely, we would still be a bit worse off (than other Nordic countries), but better off than we are now, and we would possibly

have gained time to prepare the strategy to protect the elderly," she told The Associated Press in a phone interview on Monday.

Sweden's epidemiologist from 2005 to 2013, Linde headed the country's response to swine flu and SARS and says she felt provoked by comments from a leading member of the health agency claiming Sweden's strategy was the best in the world, irrespective of the number of deaths.

"I felt this can't go on," she told the AP. "Such a denial may prevent us from acting rationally."

Sweden's health policy is traditionally based on recommendations issued by medical



ANDERS WIKLUND, TT/AP

A cyclist rests Tuesday next to a canal waterway at Djurgården in Stockholm, Sweden.

authorities and followed by the political leadership. But as the death toll mounts, Linde believes elected officials would have been more cautious in risking the lives of citizens.

"In retrospect, I think it would have been worthwhile trying the strategy of Denmark, Norway and Iceland and Finland," she said.

Yet for the Swedish government, it's still too early to tell what measures have worked and

which have failed.

"This is not a sprint, it's a marathon," Foreign Minister Ann Linde said. "It's a good thing that many experts are saying what they think. We have freedom of speech in Sweden," when asked about Annika Linde's remarks.

The foreign minister said that the government wouldn't hesitate to change Sweden's policy "if we think that will be necessary."

VIRUS OUTBREAK ROUNDUP

Traders cheer as NYSE reopens

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The trading floor of the New York Stock exchange reopened Tuesday for the first time in two months and the state legislature was set to reconvene as the state relaxed more restrictions aimed at curbing the spread of the coronavirus.

Traders cheered as Gov. Andrew Cuomo rang the opening bell of the Stock Exchange, which had been closed since March when the state shut down in the face of the virus. Under rules put in place to prevent a resurgence, traders will be required to wear masks and stay 6 feet apart. Anyone entering the Exchange will be asked to avoid public transportation.

The legislature will be in session Tuesday for the first time since the coronavirus forced lawmakers home after they passed the state budget in April. A few members of the state Senate and Assembly were expected to travel to Albany to debate and vote on bills from their offices or the chambers while most lawmakers will participate from home through video and teleconference.

Alabama

MONTGOMERY — Some Alabama residents spent the holiday weekend struggling to claim their weekly unemployment benefits.

The Alabama Department of Labor told local news outlets that about 53,000 people were blocked from filing the required weekly report telling state government that they still don't have a job. Only then will another week's worth of unemployment benefits will be issued.

The state Labor Department said that technical glitches led those who tried to file their weekly certification to have their account suspended.

Spokesperson Tara Hutchison told WSFA-TV that claimants were not seeing errors Monday morning, and that suspensions had been lifted. A second message, however, indicating that filings had been made also caused some confusion.

California

LOS ANGELES — Rabbi Shalom Rubanowitz looks forward to reopening his synagogue doors — if his congregation can balance the laws of God and California during the coronavirus pandemic.

On Monday, the state released a framework that will permit counties to allow in-person worship services. They include limiting worshippers to 100 or less, taking everyone's temperature, limiting singing and group recitations and not sharing prayer books or other items.

The Orthodox congregation of

Shul on the Beach in Los Angeles County's Venice Beach will follow the guidelines, consulting with rabbinical authorities who place a high importance on preservation of life, Rubanowitz said.

"We can do it, it's just a question of how," he said, noting that Orthodox believers are barred from using technology or carrying many personal items on the Sabbath.

Individual counties will decide whether to allow the reopening of in-person services for churches, mosques, synagogues and other religious institutions. In-person religious services are relegated to phase three, which Newsom had said could be weeks away.

Montana

HELENA — No new cases of the coronavirus were reported in Montana on Monday for the fifth straight day, keeping the total number of cases at 479.

There were 22 people with active cases of COVID-19, including three people who were in the hospital, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services said. Sixteen people with COVID-19 have died in the state.

An outbreak of the disease in western Montana has been tied to an exclusive golf and country club developed by financial executive Charles Schwab. Eight people who tested positive for COVID-19 in Ravalli County are employees of the club near Hamilton, Stock Farm Club General Manager Steve Buck said.

North Dakota

BISMARCK — Health officials said Monday that another person has died from the coronavirus in North Dakota, and 40 additional people have tested positive for COVID-19.

The latest victim was a woman in her 80s with underlying health conditions. She was from Cass County, as were 37 of the people who most recently tested positive.

A total of 54 people have died from the virus in North Dakota, where total positive cases have now reached 2,457.

Health officials said that 154 people have been hospitalized since the outbreak began, with 41 currently being cared for at hospitals.

New Mexico

LAS VEGAS — Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham has blocked the reopening of a popular northern New Mexico drive-in movie theater despite city officials believing they had the OK.

The governor's office halted a plan on May 14 to reopen the Fort Union Drive-In Movie Theater in Las Vegas, the Las Vegas Optic reported.



JEFF WHEELER, (MINNEAPOLIS) STAR TRIBUNE/AP

A cyclist rides along the path around Lake Harriet on Memorial Day in Minneapolis.

City leaders believed that they had the support of state leaders to open the theater and planned to open a double feature of "Trolls World Tour" and "Doolittle" on May 15.

But the governor's office called the San Miguel County Emergency Management Department the day before the scheduled reopening and told officials that they didn't have permission, Las Vegas Mayor Louie Trujillo said. The governor's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment Monday.

South Carolina

COLUMBIA — South Carolina's top education official wanted \$115 million for summer school programs to get some of the state's most vulnerable students back on track after missing at least 10 weeks of in-person classes because of the coronavirus.

But Accelerate SC, the state's special reopening committee, only recommended about 10% of that from the \$1.9 billion of COVID-19 relief the federal government is giving the state.

So state Education Superintendent Molly Spearman is cutting her ambitious plans while also planning to go above their heads to the governor and ultimately the General Assembly to see if they will set aside more money before voting on the final plan to spend the pandemic money next month.

The current funding is enough to provide one week of summer school to help special education students and younger elementary

students struggling to read, education officials said.

South Dakota

SIoux FALLS — The South Dakota Department of Health reported 23 new coronavirus infections Monday, but no new deaths from COVID-19.

The department said that 3,274 of the state's 4,586 coronavirus cases have been reported in Minnehaha County, the most populous county in South Dakota and the site of a large outbreak at a pork processing plant. That's up 14 from Sunday.

The number of South Dakota deaths tied to the coronavirus remained at 50 on Monday, the department said. The state had 1,121 active cases, down 21 from Sunday.

The number of hospitalized patients was 99 on Monday, up 14 from the previous day. A total of 370 cases have required hospitalization.

Officials said that 3,415 people have recovered from the coronavirus in South Dakota.

Virginia

RICHMOND — The Virginia Department of Health has reported the second confirmed case in the state of a pediatric inflammatory illness associated with the coronavirus.

The department's website on Monday showed a second case of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children in the Fairfax Health District, which includes Fairfax County and the cities of

Fairfax and Falls Church. No other details, including the age of the child, were provided.

Officials confirmed the first case in the same district last week, saying at the time that the child was recovering at home.

While children have generally not experienced severe cases of COVID-19, health officials have warned recently of the new inflammatory illness related to the virus. The Centers for Disease Control issued an advisory about the syndrome May 14, warning of symptoms including fever, abdominal pain without another explanation, diarrhea, vomiting, swollen hands and feet, red or cracked lips, rash and bumpy tongue.

Wisconsin

MADISON — Wisconsin has recorded 307 more coronavirus cases and four new deaths, the Department of Health Services reported Monday.

The new cases raised Wisconsin's total to 15,584 and its death toll to 510.

The state reported 7,173 new negative tests for a cumulative total of 193,379 negative tests. The percentage of positive tests dipped to 4.1%. That's down from 5.5% Sunday and 6.8% Saturday.

Wisconsin reported that 399 COVID-19 patients were hospitalized as of Monday, including 126 in intensive care. The statewide hospitalization rate for confirmed cases remains 15%, and 59% of confirmed cases in Wisconsin have recovered.

NATION

Laid-off workers face deadlines for health insurance

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Many laid-off workers who lost health insurance in the coronavirus shutdown soon face the first deadlines to qualify for fallback coverage under the Affordable Care Act.

Taxpayer-subsidized health insurance is available for a modest cost — sometimes even free — across the country, but industry officials and independent researchers say few people seem to know how to find it. For those who lost their health insurance as layoffs mounted in late March, a 60-day “special enrollment” period for individual coverage under the ACA closes at the end of May in most states.

Altheia Franklin, who lives near Houston, lost her medical plan after being laid off from a job at an upscale retirement community, as a counselor to seniors making the move. Stay-at-home orders and higher virus risks for older people have put such life transitions on hold.

Franklin said she received plenty of government information about coronavirus safety and economic stimulus payments, but “the insurance piece just has not been mentioned.”

She scrambled and finally found an ACA — or “Obamacare” — plan she could still afford on a reduced income. “We are in the middle of a pandemic, and God forbid if I get sick and I don’t have it,” she said of her health insurance.

The nonpartisan Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that nearly 27 million workers and family members had lost job-based health coverage as of the start of this month, a number now likely higher with unemployment claims rising.

In a counterintuitive finding, Kaiser’s study also estimated that nearly 8 in 10 of the newly uninsured would likely qualify for some sort of coverage under former President Barack Obama’s health law, either a private plan like Franklin found, or Medicaid. “The ACA is there as a safety net for the first time in an economic downturn,” said Kaiser foundation expert Larry Levitt. But “many people losing their jobs have never had to think of relying on the ACA for coverage, so there is no reason they should be aware of their options.”

There are several options, not easy to sort through. Some have application deadlines; others do not.

And the Trump administration, which still plans to ask the Supreme Court later this summer to declare “Obamacare” unconstitutional, is doing little to promote the health law’s coverage. Here’s

a quick look:

■ **Subsidized private insurance sign-ups:** Like Franklin, people who lose workplace insurance generally have 60 days from when their coverage ended to apply for an ACA plan.

They can go to the federal HealthCare.gov or their state’s health insurance website.

Most states that run their own health insurance marketplaces have provided an extended sign-up period for people who lost coverage in the pandemic. The federal marketplace, serving most of the country, has not.

■ **Medicaid for adults:** Nearly three-fourths of the states have expanded Medicaid to low-income adults under the Obama health law.

In those states, low-income adults can qualify for free or very low cost coverage. There is no sign-up deadline.

The Kaiser foundation estimates that nearly 13 million people who lost job-based insurance are eligible for Medicaid.

But that option is not available in most Southern states, as well as some in the Midwest and Plains, because they have not expanded Medicaid.

■ **Children’s insurance:** Laid-off workers should be able to get their children covered even if the adults in the family cannot help.

The federal-state Children’s Health Insurance Program and Medicaid cover kids in families with incomes well above the poverty level.

“Medicaid is open year round if you are a parent with kids who need coverage,” said Joan Alker, director of the Center for Children and Families at Georgetown University. Children’s coverage predates the ACA.

■ **COBRA:** People can continue their employer coverage under a federal law known as COBRA, but they have to pay 102% of the premium — too much for most who are out of work.

Government statistics on people losing — and finding — health insurance coverage in the coronavirus contraction won’t be available for months.

The head of a California company that helps people find ACA coverage says most of the new sign-ups they’re seeing are people who qualify for Medicaid, and there’s been only a modest uptick for subsidized private plans.

“We are all wondering where the heck is everybody,” said George Kalogeropoulos, CEO of Health Sherpa.



CHARLIE NIEBERGALL/AP

Des Moines Area Religious Council Food Pantry worker Patrick Minor pulls a package of ground pork out of a cooler during a pantry stop on Wednesday. The U.S. Agriculture Department is spending \$3 billion to help get farm products to food banks.

Efforts underway to get food from US farms to the needy

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — As food banks have struggled to meet soaring demand from people suddenly out of work because of the coronavirus pandemic, it has been especially troubling to see farmers have to bury produce, dump milk and euthanize hogs.

Now some states are providing more money to help pay for food that might otherwise go to waste, the U.S. Agriculture Department is spending \$3 billion to help get farm products to food banks, and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand of New York is seeking \$8 billion more to buy farm produce for food banks.

“Obviously nobody likes to see waste of good food,” said Mark Quandt, executive director of the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York. “And to know that farmers put so much work and money and energy into producing the product. That’s got to be breaking their heart to then have to

just dump product like that or just throw it away or plow it under.”

Farmers were left with little choice after the closure of restaurants and schools abruptly ended much of the demand for the food they produced.

This has coincided with a spike in demand at food banks, with nearly 39 million people suddenly out of work. In Florida, for example, 12 food banks have had to scramble to increase deliveries from 6 million pounds of food per week to 10 million pounds.

A U.S. Census Bureau survey found that more than 10% of U.S. households reported not being able to get enough food some of the time or often, and a survey for the Data Foundation found that 37% of unemployed Americans ran out of food in the past month.

Thanks to various government and private efforts, at least some of the food that would have been wasted is now being delivered to the people who need it.

Vehicle thefts spike during pandemic

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The coronavirus hasn’t been kind to car owners.

With more people than ever staying home to lessen the spread of COVID-19, their sedans, pickup trucks and SUVs are parked unattended on the streets, making them easy targets for opportunistic thieves.

Despite silent streets and nearly nonexistent traffic, vehicle larcenies shot up 63% in New York and nearly 17% in Los Angeles from Jan. 1 through mid-May, compared with the same period last year.

And many other law enforcement agencies around the U.S. are reporting an increase in stolen cars and vehicle burglaries, even as violent crime has dropped dramatically nationwide in the coronavirus pandemic. It’s a low-risk crime with a potentially high reward, police say, especially when



KNBC-TV/AP

Video by KNBC-TV shows the end of a May 22 pursuit on Southern California freeways of a pickup that had been reported stolen.

many drivers leave their doors unlocked or their keys inside.

“You might as well put a sticker on the window that says ‘come take my stuff,’” said an exasperated Alex Villanueva, the Los Angeles County sheriff.

In Austin, Texas, last month, a whopping 72% of the 322 stolen vehicles had their keys nearby. The total number of auto thefts in April spiked about 50%, and burglaries to vehicles were up 2% from April 2019.

NATION



EVAN VUCCI/AP

President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump participate in a Memorial Day ceremony at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine on Monday in Baltimore. Trump is making the case to voters that if he helped bolster the economy once, he can do it again.

Trump's pitch: Economy will soar again in 2021

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump has a new pitch to voters for this fall: Trust me.

As the economy faces a once-in-a-century recession, with more than 38 million people out of work, Trump is increasingly talking up a future recovery that probably won't materialize until after the November election. He's asking voters to look past the pain being felt across the nation and give him another four-year term on the promise of an economic comeback in 2021.

"It's a transition to greatness," Trump says over and over, predicting a burgeoning economy come the fall. "You're going to see some great numbers in the fourth quarter, and you're going to end up doing a great year next year."

His chief economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, echoes the wait-until-next-year sentiment, holding out hope for a "big bang 2021." It's a delayed-reward tactic Trump was using long before the global pandemic gut-punched the country. He has turned to it with new urgency as the coronavirus has robbed him of the booming economy that was to be the core of his reelection message.

Trump had already pledged to finally release a Republican health care plan after the polls closed — despite having served more than three years in office — along with a postelection tax cut and a "Phase 2" trade deal with China.

Now, Trump is making the case to voters that if he helped bolster the economy once, he can do it again.

"We built the greatest economy in the world," Trump says frequently. "I'll do it a second time."

It's not just next year that will be a mystery to voters on Election Day. Trump and his team have been talking up the fourth quarter — October through December — but economic reports on that period won't be released until 2021. Preliminary figures for the third quarter will be released Oct. 29, days before the Nov. 3 election. And unemployment could still be in double-digit territory by Election Day, White House economist Kevin Hassett and Eric Rosengren, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, said in television interviews Sunday.

"Unfortunately, I think it's likely to be double-digit unemployment through the end of this year," Rosengren told CBS' "Face the Nation." To bring back the lost jobs levels seen at the end of last February, he said it would probably take a vaccine or "other medical innovations that make it much less risky to go out."

Still, Trump and his campaign are hoping they can convince the public that Trump, not Democrat Joe Biden, is the candidate who can turn things around. "The president has a clear record of building the economy to unprecedented heights before it was artificially interrupted by the coronavirus, and they know he will build it a second time," said Trump campaign communications director Tim Murtaugh.

Economists, however, warn that the "snap back" Trump's advisers have been talking up is unlikely, given the severity of the recession. It will take years for the economy to recover, according to the Congressional Budget Office. Americans are split on whether they think the economy will improve (41%) or worsen (40%) over the coming year, according to a poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Their opinions differ based on their politics. A majority of Republicans (62%) think the economy will get better in the coming year, while a majority of Democrats (56%) think it will get worse.

Still, the poll shows that Americans are more likely to expect their personal finances to improve than worsen in the next year, 37% to 17%. In the end, that's what is going to matter most, said Michael Steel, a Republican political strategist. "The president is placing a bet by reopening the economy before public health officials believe it is safe," he said. "If the economy recovers sharply and infection rates remain steady or go down, then voters will reward his boldness, but if we continue to see massive unemployment and a spike in new infections and deaths, all the political wordsmithery the world will offer won't help him."



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, depart after placing a wreath at Delaware Memorial Bridge Veterans Memorial Park on Monday in New Castle. Biden is sharpening his tone, still pitching consensus but touting a "bold agenda" aimed at mollifying progressives who remain skeptical.

Biden seeks to move left without abandoning roots

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Joe Biden worked out deals with Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell. He defended Vice President Mike Pence as a "decent guy" and eulogized Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain's "fairness, honesty, dignity, respect."

When he launched his presidential campaign, such overtures to Republicans were central to Biden's promise to "unify the country" and "restore the soul of the nation" after defeating President Donald Trump. Now that he's the presumptive Democratic nominee, Biden is sharpening his tone, still pitching consensus but touting a "bold agenda" aimed at mollifying progressives who remain skeptical he'll deliver enough on health care, student loan debts and the climate crisis.

The idea is to avoid repeating the party's 2016 defeat, when Hillary Clinton struggled to unite her moderate supporters and backers of Bernie Sanders. The dynamics are different in 2020, with Democrats united in their antipathy toward Trump. But Biden's juggling of the left wing along with mainstream Democrats and independents and Republicans disgruntled with Trump could still end up as an unsuccessful attempt to be all things to all people.

"It certainly seems like the approach that they're taking right now is trying to have it both ways," said Evan Weber, a co-founder of the Sunrise Movement, a climate action youth organization that is working with the Biden campaign on policy proposals.

For younger voters, Weber added, "Going too far in the direction of trying to appeal to a moderate narrative or a bipartisan era that most people in our generation have never experienced... is not going to inspire a lot of confidence."

Republican pollster Whit Ayres countered that Biden's "sweet spot" is the center-left.

"You've got to run on who you are," Ayres said. "If he becomes a politician of the left, it's going to hurt his ability to consolidate the 54% of Americans who voted for someone other than Donald Trump in 2016."

Biden deflects the risks. Asked whether his recent moves mean he'll govern as a "progressive," Biden retorted on CNBC: "I'm going to be Joe Biden. Look at my record."

Recent interviews and campaign events

reveal the nuances Biden hopes can attract support in both directions. "I think health care is a right, not a privilege," he said on CNBC, espousing an article of faith for the left. But, he added, "I do not support Medicare for All" single-payer insurance.

Biden embraces some key principles of the Green New Deal sweeping climate plan as paths to "tens of millions of new jobs" but casts as impossible some progressives' goal of zeroing out carbon pollution over a decade. He's reaffirmed that he wants Republicans' 2017 tax cuts repealed for the wealthiest individuals and corporations. But he prefers a 28% corporate tax rate — still lower than what it was before the cuts — and he's not embraced a "wealth tax" on the fortunes of the richest Americans.

The coronavirus pandemic has influenced Biden's thinking, as well.

Once a senator who championed a balanced budget amendment, he's aligned with congressional Democrats pushing trillions of dollars in aid for states, local governments, business and individuals. And, adopting the tenor of erstwhile rivals like Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, Biden has intensified his calls to rebuild the economy to reflect progressive values, including stamping out income inequalities baked into the pre-pandemic system.

Biden aides say he's uniquely positioned for a wide "Biden coalition" because voters prioritize experience and temperament, along with policy.

"We do not have to make a choice between one group or another group in terms of how we are going to win this," Biden's campaign manager Jen O'Malley Dillon said on a recent strategy call.

Tim Miller, a former spokesman for Jeb Bush's 2016 presidential campaign and a steadfast member of the GOP's "Never Trump" faction, said more 2016 voters in decisive battleground states shunned both Trump and Clinton for center-right alternatives in Libertarian Gary Johnson or Independent Evan McMullin than Green Party candidate Jill Stein. Winning back just that cohort could be enough to secure Biden the presidency this cycle, he said.

"I do think that there's a concern that if he oversteps, overemphasizes a pivot to the left that could turn off certain voters who are gettable for him," Miller said. "That's going to be a continued tightrope through November."

SCIENCE

SpaceX's astronaut launch breaking new ground for style

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The first astronauts launched by SpaceX are breaking new ground for style with hip spacesuits, gull-wing Teslas and a sleek rocket-ship — all of it white with black trim.

The color coordinating is thanks to Elon Musk, the driving force behind both SpaceX and Tesla, and a big fan of flash and science fiction.

NASA astronauts Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken like the fresh new look. They'll catch a ride to the launch pad in a Tesla Model X electric car.

"It's really neat, and I think the biggest testament to that is my 10-year-old son telling me how cool I am now," Hurley told The Associated Press.

"SpaceX has gone all out" on the capsule's appearance, he said. "And they've worked equally as hard to make the innards and the displays and everything else in the vehicle work to perfection."

The true test comes Wednesday when Hurley and Behnken climb aboard a SpaceX Dragon capsule atop a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket and, equipment and weather permitting, shoot into space. It will



KIM SHIPLETT, NASA/AP

Astronauts Doug Hurley, left, and Robert Behnken pose in front of a Tesla Model X car during a SpaceX launch dress rehearsal at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., in January.

be the first astronaut launch from NASA's Kennedy Space Center since the last shuttle flight in 2011.

It will also mark the first attempt by a private company to send astronauts into orbit. Only governments — Russia, the U.S., and China — have done that.

The historic send-off deserves to look good, according to SpaceX.

It already has a nice ring. Musk named his rocket after the "Star Wars" Millennium Falcon. The capsule name stems from "Puff the Magic Dragon," Musk's job at all the doubters when he started SpaceX in 2002.

SpaceX designed and built its own suits, which are custom-fit. Safety came first. The cool — or wow — factor was a close second.

Branson's Virgin Orbit fails on first test launch

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Richard Branson's Virgin Orbit failed Monday in its first test launch of a new rocket carried aloft by a Boeing 747 and released over the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Southern California.

The inaugural launch had

appeared to be going well until moments after the rocket was dropped from beneath the left wing of the jumbo jet dubbed Cosmic Girl.

There was no immediate word on what went wrong with the rocket, which carried a test satellite.

"It's important that the suits are comfortable and also are inspiring," explained SpaceX's Benji Reed, a mission director. "But above all, it's designed to keep the crew safe."

The bulky, orange ascent and entry suits worn by shuttle astronauts had their own attraction, according to Behnken, who like Hurley wore them for his two previous missions. Movies like "Armageddon" and "Space Cowboys" stole the orange look whenever actors were "trying to pretend to be astronauts."

On launch day, Hurley and Behnken will get ready inside Kennedy's remodeled crew quarters, which dates back to the two-man Gemini missions of the mid-1960s. SpaceX techs will help the astronauts into their one-piece, two-layer pressure suits.

Hurley and Behnken will emerge through the same double doors used on July 16, 1969, by Apollo 11's Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins — the Operations and Checkout Building now bears Armstrong's name.

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Official wants to revisit statues' removal

VA CHARLOTTESVILLE — A top official in the Virginia city where a white nationalist rally erupted in violence in 2017 has called for renewing discussions about removing two Confederate statues, one of which became the focus of the rally.

In an April email obtained by The Daily Progress, Charlottesville City Manager Tarron Richardson indicated that he wants to hold meetings with the City Council in June, after the council approves its budget for fiscal 2021, to discuss the removal of the statues of Confederate generals Robert E. Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson.

Richardson sent the email four days after Gov. Ralph Northam signed bills that give local officials the authority to remove, relocate or alter their Confederate monuments. The legislation takes effect on July 1.

Bear in tree moved, to be released elsewhere

PA ERIE — State game commission wardens in northwestern Pennsylvania tranquilized and removed a 127-pound bear from a neighborhood in the city of Erie over the weekend.

Erie police and game wardens were called to the east Erie neighborhood at about 2:30 p.m. Saturday after the animal was spotted in a tree in the backyard of a home.

A game warden fired a tranquilizer dart from the bucket of a fire department ladder truck that was backed into an adjacent yard near the tree. The bear, which was clinging to a branch about 25 feet in the air, dropped to the ground several minutes later.

Wardens said that the bear was uninjured by the fall and estimated it to be about 1½-years-old. They said that the bear would likely be taken to Forest County and released.

Man, 20, charged in nursing home assault

MI DETROIT — A 20-year-old Detroit nursing home patient was charged with assault after beating his 75-year-old roommate in an assault that authorities said the younger man recorded on his cellphone and posted on social media.

Jaden T. Hayden of Ypsilanti was charged with two counts of assault, larceny and two counts of owning a financial transaction device, the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office said.

Hayden was sharing a room with Norman Bledsoe when authorities alleged that he set up a cellphone and recorded himself beating the older man. Hayden told nursing home staff who found Bledsoe bleeding on May 15 that Bledsoe had fallen out of bed, prosecutors said. Bledsoe had head injuries and was taken to a hospital for treatment.

Hayden posted video of the attack on social media, prosecutors said, and also stole Bledsoe's car keys. He was arrested Thursday after the video was



GENE J. PUSKAR/AP

Out for a swim

Visitors to Ohiopyle State Park cool off Sunday in Meadow Run in Ohiopyle, Pa. The park, which surrounds the Youghiogheny River Gorge, encompasses approximately 20,500 acres of land used for many outdoor activities, including hunting, camping and whitewater rafting.

brought to the attention of police.

Over 2K need to return refund sent in error

LA BATON ROUGE — More than 2,100 Louisiana taxpayers have yet to return refund money they were sent as the result of a mistake.

WAFB-TV reported that nearly \$595,000 is involved. The Louisiana Legislative Auditor said that computer problems led to 66,730 individual income tax refunds totaling \$26.9 million being unintentionally refunded to taxpayers twice last year.

Most of the money was recovered. People who received the extra money and haven't yet returned it are being issued bills by the state revenue department, WAFB reported. The state said that collections efforts against those who don't pay the bills will not include removing the owed amount from any COVID-19 economic impact payments.

Driver runs red light, flips over police SUV

KS TOPEKA — Police said that a driver ran a red light, hit a Kansas police SUV and then flipped it on its top Sunday morning.

Police told the Topeka Capital-Journal that the driver T-boned a Topeka police vehicle, rolling the

THE CENSUS

5 The number of juveniles accused of starting a wildfire in Yavapai County, Ariz., that forced the evacuation of 150 homes, authorities said. The fire burned 65 acres in the small town of Bagdad before being brought under control Friday. The juveniles were smoking despite a fire ban on the area when the blaze began Thursday, according to county Sheriff's officials. They said witnesses saw the five juveniles, who range in age from 11 to 15, running from the fire scene.

SUV upside down.

Police said that the officer who was hit and a passenger from the other car were taken to the hospital for minor injuries, the newspaper reported.

Police have not yet released the names of the driver or the police officer involved.

Police arrest man who shot at paramedics

GA MONTEZUMA — A middle Georgia man could face criminal charges for shooting at paramedics. Jimmy Spradley Jr. was arrested Friday afternoon, Montezuma Police Chief Eric Finch told WMAZ-TV.

Macon County paramedics and first responders were approaching a home when someone shot a gun at them, Finch said. Police officers responded and special response team members entered the home, arresting Spradley.

Spradley has a history of mental illness and was taken to a Macon hospital, the police chief said.

Man arrested after toddler wanders

FL FLOROSA — A Florida man has been arrested after a driver spotted a runaway toddler in diapers on a highway near midnight.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office said that the man had put the 2-year-old child in bed and was checking emails, but didn't realize the toddler had escaped.

A driver found the child on Highway 98 in Florosa in the Florida Panhandle and called authorities. A deputy familiar with the neighborhood went to a nearby home where he knew there were young children and noticed a garage door and interior door open.

The sheriff's office said in a Sunday news release that 43-year-old Micah Adkins is facing a child neglect charge. Adkins said that it was the second time the toddler had escaped in the past three days, the release said. The first time he also left the garage door

open, and the child walked to a nearby car wash.

Lost climber rescued from Mount Hood

OR PORTLAND — Searchers rescued a lost climber on Mount Hood by tracking his phone, officials say.

The crew found Nicolas David Larson, 31, of Sunriver, early Saturday morning. He was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment of hypothermia.

Larson was reported missing Friday evening by a friend who had received text messages from him, Sgt. Marcus Mendoza with the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office said. The lost climber called 911 himself a short time later. Larson said that he had reached the summit of Mount Hood on Friday, but became lost in whiteout conditions. He had protein bars but no water, and told dispatchers that his cellphone battery was about to run out.

Searchers looked through the night and found Larson at about 6,200 feet on the west side of Mount Hood around 2 a.m. About 30 people participated in the rescue, including crews from Portland Mountain Rescue and the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office.

From wire reports

FACES



Starring in the shadows

FRANK GUNN, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Canadian-Indian rapper Nav's latest album, "Good Intentions," debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart last week.

Nav on back-to-back No. 1s and learning from The Weeknd

By GARY GERARD HAMILTON

Associated Press

Canadian-Indian rapper Nav has no problem being signed by one of the biggest artists in the world. In fact, he says The Weeknd doesn't overshadow him, but pushes him to the forefront.

"It's a real family over here. He has so much success. I don't think he really cares about who's (also successful)," said Nav, whose real name is Navraj Singh Goraya and is signed to The Weeknd's XO imprint. "He just wants everybody to win."

With fellow Canadian stars like The Weeknd and Drake, it's an understatement to say Toronto has had a signature run in music the past few years. But Nav, whose new album "Good Intentions" debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 albums chart last week, is taking notes and hoping to one day draw the same acclaim.

"In the room, he's very humble and chill," Nav said of The Weeknd, who has won three Grammys and also topped the Billboard charts this year with his new album, "After Hours."

"He's not going to come shake (up) the album on some bravado tip. He's just gonna be really honest."

Nav's "Good Intentions" follows "Bad Habits," which also debuted at No. 1 last year. While Nav expected his third album to do well, even he was slightly surprised at back-to-back apex albums.

"It's kind of surreal that I topped my last project," he said. "I'm surprised. ... The music just cut through again."

Chopping through the jungle known as the music industry has become second nature for the producer-turned-rapper who began

'It's a real family over here. He has so much success. I don't think he really cares about who's (also successful). He just wants everybody to win.'

Nav

on fellow Canadian star The Weeknd, who also is his boss at record label XO

making waves throughout hip-hop by crafting beats and writing for artists like Beyoncé and Jay-Z, Drake, Travis Scott, Lil Uzi Vert, Gucci Mane, A Boogie wit da Hoodie, Kodak Black and his label boss.

Nav, whose parents are from Punjab, the northern region of India, grew up in a predominantly white Toronto neighborhood where he initially listened to alternative artists such as Nirvana, No Doubt, Radiohead — acts who now influence his melodies. Hip-hop stole his heart while attending a diverse junior high school.

"When I started going to middle school, all my friends were from my hood and were like, 'Listen to Nas and 50 Cent,'" said Nav. "On the production side, you'll see that my melodies are weird. I take influence from weird synth-pop and put it into a hip-hop beat."

Nav credits much of his success to taking the time to perfect what he's already good at, rather than focusing on his weaknesses.

"I don't have the best pen, maybe," says Nav, "but I know overall, the music, the sound is gonna sound great."

While he's basking in the moment — as well as the fire emojis he says he frequently sees in the social media comments about his music — he's also set his sights on showing other young people of Indian descent that success in creative and non-traditional careers can be attained.

"There might be a brown kid who paints and isn't sure, and his parents want him to be a lawyer or something. Not saying that's bad, but it's something that he's not interested in," Nav said. "I hope I inspire the brown guys, brown girls, everybody, just to follow their dreams with no fear. Because that's what I did."

Queen guitarist reveals recent heart attack

Associated Press

Queen guitarist Brian May said Monday in an Instagram video he recently had three stents put in after experiencing "a small heart attack."

May, 72, said he feels fine now and the procedure was a success. "I walked out with a heart that's very strong now," May said.

His video details a health saga this month that included dealing with a compressed nerve that was causing him extreme pain.

The month started with May and Roger Taylor — the remaining members of Queen — teaming up with singer Adam Lambert to release a new version of the band's "We Are the Champions" to raise money for front-line healthcare workers battling COVID-19.

'Kind of Blue' drummer for Miles Davis dies

Jimmy Cobb, the last surviving member of the group that recorded Miles Davis' groundbreaking 1959 jazz album "Kind of Blue," died Sunday. He was 91.

Cobb's wife, Eleana Tee Cobb, announced on Facebook that her husband died at his New York City home from lung cancer.

Cobb's role as a drummer on the "Kind of Blue" jam session headed by Davis forever changed his career and those of the other musicians in the session. The album also featured saxophonists Cannonball Adderley and John Coltrane and pianist Bill Evans.

"Kind of Blue," released on Aug. 17, 1959, captured a moment when jazz was transforming from bebop to something newer, cooler and less structured.

It has sold more than 4 million copies and remains the best-selling jazz album of all time.

Other news

■ **J.K. Rowling** is publishing a new story called "The Ickabog," which will be free to read online to help entertain children and families stuck at home during the coronavirus pandemic. The first two chapters were posted online Tuesday, with daily installments to follow until July 10. The book will be published in print later this year.

■ **The Doobie Brothers** have rescheduled their 50th anniversary tour because of the coronavirus pandemic. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame nominees announced Tuesday that the tour, which was to begin in June, will kick off in July 2021. For the tour, The Doobie Brothers are joining with singer and songwriter Michael McDonald, who sang with the band starting in 1975 before starting a solo career.

■ **George R.R. Martin**, the famed author of the "Game of Thrones" fantasy series, has joined a group that is buying the historic Santa Fe Southern Railroad. The Bayonne, N.J.-born Martin lives in Santa Fe and has in recent years helped with projects around New Mexico.

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EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
leonard.terry@stripes.com
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
reid.robert@stripes.com
Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content
croley.tina@stripes.com
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
moores.sean@stripes.com
Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
gromelski.joe@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

Eric Slavik, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
slavik.eric@stripes.com
David B. Smith, Pacific Bureau Chief
smith.david@stripes.com

Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stripes.com
+81.422.552.2511 ext. 88380, DSN (315)227.7380

Washington

Joseph Caccioli, Washington Bureau Chief
caccioli.joseph@stripes.com
(+1)202.886-0033
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
bowers.brian@stripes.com

CIRCULATION

Mideast
Robert Reisman, Mideast Circulation Manager
reisman.robert.na@gmail.com
xscirculation@stripes.com
DSN (314)583-9111

Europe

Karen Lewis, Community Engagement Manager
lewis.karen@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.9090, DSN (314)583.9090

Pacific

Mari Mori, Customerhelp@stripes.com
+81-3-6385.3171, DSN (315)227.7333

CONTACT US

Washington
Tel: (+1)202.886.0003
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contacts

OMBDSMAN

Ernie Gates

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OPINION

Military-style gear at protests rings hollow

By DREW GARZA
Special to The Washington Post

I took comfort in my Army uniform. Not a physical comfort, because that certainly was never synonymous with Army-issue items, but a comfort of familiarity. I suffered in that gear, and it became a part of me. Some veterans can't wait to take off their uniform, but I didn't want to live without mine.

I left the military in 2015 after 10 years of service that included three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and about a dozen other deployments around the world. Initially, I was drawn to tactical clothing: military-style cargo pants, some variety of combat boot. I carried my multitool and other useful items, just like I did when I served. None of this was an attempt to convey authority or strength. It was a way to replicate the comfort of my uniform. As I transitioned to civilian life — and a difficult transition it was — wearing these clothes helped.

But slowly I moved away from that practice. I lost that comfort as I noticed the rise of "the Uniform."

"The Uniform" is my term for the look some protesters have adopted in recent years. It is not a specific military uniform but often a mix of non-government-issue, third-party combat gear. There are usually lots of accessories and pouches: patches of varying political rancor; and flags that are rarely red, white and blue. Sometimes these outfits display a blood type, a practice meant to save lives in combat. Usually the clothes are clean, with no visible wear. Sometimes there are tactical masks or fabrics meant to evoke traditional Middle Eastern garb. And a rifle, often also heavily accessorized.

To my eye, the overall look is a caricature of a special operations warfighter, like those in video games.

The Uniform has become a fixture in political storms and crises. People in these outfits show up to political events, where they scream and scowl. They demand freedom as they wield assault rifles. They reject criticism as un-American. Some carry flags that are un-American. In a country where minorities are killed for mistaken perceptions, they protest in a protective ether of unrecognized privilege. They have adopted the Uniform to show a willingness to use force to protect their way of life. Thankfully, this interpretation of the appearance of strength is generally as far as things go.

At first, my discomfort with wearing tactical gear was rooted in not wanting to be associated with a particular political stance. I worried less that the look was being appropriated than I did about not wanting to explain my position to anyone other than I. As many veterans can attest, the effort to do so can be exhausting and traumatic.

Now, however, I feel a different discomfort when I see the Uniform. Those wearing it are attempting to make their appearance speak for them, sometimes without the service that normally gives power to the voice. Over our nation's history, the sacrifice and commitment of military service have made it a source of integrity and wisdom. It is meaningful when someone in uniform speaks because the uniform is also speaking. The power of that voice is such that political activities of military members in uniform are restricted. The fiber and brass of military uniforms announce the service of those wearing it; they sug-

gest valuable insight and perspective.

Veterans know brothers and sisters who died in uniform. Tattered camouflage was often still wrapped around detached limbs. Millions of goodbyes have been said in uniform, and the uniform was the last thing that far too many family members touched. Millions of Americans have stood in uniform and watched innocent people suffer. Sometimes we could help; sometimes we were helpless. Some of us wore the same gear for weeks straight with no showers or laundry. We know the permanent coloring inflicted by months of billowing dust and sand. Uniforms get dirty — covered in hydraulic oil, mud, blood. Still, we wear them as we serve.

The military uniform has always shrouded pain. Veterans know this, and our uniforms speak because of it.

Military veterans, of course, are not gatekeepers of suffering. Many across our country are struggling. People are sick. Income inequality is rampant. Skin color and class trigger bias and discrimination. These conditions are not new, but the pandemic has exacerbated them.

Citizens have every right to be angry at government responses that are unclear, insufficient or unwarranted. Citizens have every right to protest — to speak from their personal pain.

They don't need gear to speak for them. I don't pretend to know what suffering others have experienced. When I see the Uniform engaged in protest, I understand that it is intended to convey a message. But this appearance, reappropriated in anger, rings hollow.

Drew Garza served in the U.S. Army from 2005 to 2015. He is a Tillman scholar at George Washington University.

Rule of law must dictate next steps in Flynn case

By J. MICHAEL LUTTIG
Special to The Washington Post

THE politically charged issue of whether a federal judge should grant the government's request to dismiss the prosecution against former national security adviser Michael Flynn has brought out the partisan mobs on all sides of the issue. Fortunately for our country, the issue will be decided not by the rule of mobs, but by the rule of law.

The rule of law instructs that U.S. District Court Judge Emmet Sullivan has the power — indeed, the obligation — to determine whether dismissal of Flynn's case would be in the public interest and whether the integrity of the judicial process would be compromised by granting the government's dismissal request. This authority stems from the federal criminal rules of procedure and the trial judge's inherent authority. If this authority were properly exercised, the judge's refusal to dismiss the case would not impermissibly usurp the executive's exclusive constitutional power to decide whether to bring or maintain a criminal prosecution.

The devil is in the word "properly." In Flynn's case, the judge has already abused his wide discretion by inviting outside advocates to weigh in, which would make a circus of the solemn judicial proceeding, and by selecting an outside party to make the case against dismissal who has already made clear his bias against dismissal in a Washington Post opinion column.

In response, Flynn's lawyers have taken the unusual step of asking the federal appeals court to order Sullivan to dismiss the case, arguing that prosecutors have the sole power to decide whether to continue the prosecution. Ordinarily, this effort

would fail.

However, this is not an ordinary case. In this highly extraordinary case, the appeals court should step in even at this early stage — not to order that the case be dismissed, but to send it back to a different trial court judge for further review. The court of appeals is bound to permit (and require) a trial court to decide in the first instance those questions that are now before the court.

Ordering the trial judge to dismiss the case at this stage would be premature. The Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure allow the government to dismiss an indictment only "with leave of court." Those words contemplate that the trial judge has not yet processed the judge has established whether a prosecution is dismissed. If the court of appeals were to order Sullivan to dismiss the case now, the full appeals court or, if not, the Supreme Court, should reverse that error.

The appeals court, though, would be justified in intervening in the case now to correct the process the judge has established for moving to decision. Sullivan has done two highly unusual, and troubling, things. First, he invited amici, or outside "friends of the court," to submit arguments on whether dismissal of the prosecution would be in the public interest. These are questions for the judge to decide, not for the public to decide.

Second, and more disturbing, he tasked a retired federal judge, John Gleeson, with making the case that Flynn's guilty plea should not be dismissed. Bringing in an outside party in essence to argue for the continued prosecution of the case is unusual enough, but Gleeson, though a well-respected former judge, is the wrong choice. In an opinion piece in which he all

but argued that Sullivan should not grant the motion to dismiss, he revealed his bias on the very question in which his impartial advice is being sought.

The court of appeals should therefore proceed as follows: grant the writ of mandamus; disallow amicus briefs; have the judge select a different adviser to assist him confidentially, if necessary and the court of appeals agrees; and urge that the judge promptly on the motion to dismiss, explaining his reasoning in full for appellate review.

There are ample grounds in the actions the district court has already taken for the appeals court to order that the government's motion to dismiss be heard by a different judge, and it should so order.

Were either Sullivan or another judge eventually to decide that it would be contrary to the public interest to dismiss the prosecution or that to do so would undermine the integrity of the judicial process, that judgment could be appealed.

The appeals court would then confront a novel and nettlesome question. The trial court has indisputable, but very limited, power to refuse the government's request. Here, because the government contends that the case should be dismissed because of its own confessed misconduct, and therefore the government's prosecutorial interest is at its zenith, it would be exceedingly difficult for a court to substitute its view and override the government's contrary assessment. Under our Constitution, the decision whether to prosecute to the final stages of conviction and sentence is committed wholly and exclusively to the executive branch of the government — almost.

J. Michael Luttig served as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit from 1991 to 2006.

OPINION

Sustaining a recovery requires backtracking

By GARY COHN

Special to The Washington Post

In the first response phase to COVID-19, the objective was clear: provide relief to those hit hardest by social distancing and minimize the impact on the overall economy. To do this, we expanded unemployment benefits to incentivize as many people as possible to stay home, we created programs to help otherwise healthy businesses temporarily close; and we sought to give small businesses forgivable loans through the Paycheck Protection Program to hire back their employees while they remained at home.

But the policies that support a rapid response can be quite different from those that support a sustainable recovery. In fact, sometimes they are in conflict with one another. We must determine what we are trying to achieve. This is complicated by the fact that Washington is returning to its typical state of gridlock. There's no time for feuds. Pragmatic politics should be set aside to focus on pragmatic solutions to support recovery.

First, all states have suffered during the past months. They have carried the costs of funding unemployment and medical claims while providing overtime to the first responders who have all relied upon. States cannot print their own money to cover these costs. The federal government called on states to act, and it should be accountable for providing relief. Similarly, our hospitals answered the government's call to combat the pandemic, stopping much of their non-emergency medical services. This has had an extraordinary financial impact, particularly on smaller rural institutions, which require immediate help.

Second, while enhanced unemployment benefits were the right answer when the objective was exclusively economic relief, they create a disincentive to any effort



TOMY DEAN/AP

A man walks out of a GNC store in University Heights, Ohio, on Thursday.

aimed at getting people back to work. We will need to return to the traditional definition of unemployment in which recipients are incentivized to actively look for a job and cannot receive benefits if offered one. Republican and Democratic governors have acknowledged this challenge.

Instead, we should provide enhanced incentives to bring people back to work. The Paycheck Protection Program is a critical effort to help us get from response to recovery, and it should be revised based on learnings from its initial application. The Treasury Department has helpfully clarified that if small-business employees turn down an offer of reemployment via PPP, the employer must notify the state that they are now ineligible for unemployment benefits, but this may be hard to enforce.

Third, employer liability must be resolved for any economic recovery phase to

begin. Businesses of all sizes need to know that if they take responsible steps to protect employees and customers, they have a safe harbor in which to operate. This is especially critical to small businesses selling nonessential goods that have been forced to close while the big-box and online retailers with which they compete have been allowed to remain open and sell competing goods. We have to allow the small local businesses to reopen on equal footing without incurring additional liability.

Finally, while tax incentives are often viewed as an important step in any normal economic stimulus, these are not normal times, and we need to be clear-eyed about their likely impact. If the most important objective of our recovery efforts is to get as many people back to work as possible, policies such as a payroll tax holiday will have limited effect since these would only

directly benefit the employed and expedite the insolvency of the Social Security trust fund. In the current environment, a sales tax holiday would be far more effective, delivering savings directly to consumers and giving them more purchasing power. However, sales taxes are levied by states and cities that cannot afford to forgo this crucial revenue right now, especially without further financial assistance from the federal government. A tariff holiday, making imports more affordable, would give people more purchasing power.

The challenge for policymakers today is in calibrating the transition from rapid response to sustainable recovery. It's hard to incentivize work when health and safety concerns persist and schools/child care remain closed. Each region will be on different timelines, so the tools we deploy must be flexible. For the recovery to truly be sustainable, we must be bold. We will either need to incentivize the safe return to an office-based working experience or we will need to develop opportunities for segments of the workforce to adapt to a new normal. Just as the Great Depression spurred programs to develop nationwide infrastructure, we must rebuild America's back to work building next-generation infrastructure — from high-speed rail to upgraded telecommunications networks.

There is little question that the response actions taken by our country were essential. But now, in many ways, the most challenging test is still ahead. Stimulating the economy and achieving a sustainable economy will require a careful — and likely unpopular — unwinding of our initial response programs. Otherwise, we will be stuck in limbo, with competing visions of what we're trying to achieve.

Gary Cohn served as director of the National Economic Council and chief economic adviser to President Donald Trump from 2017 to 2018.

Trump doesn't like mail-in voting, but it's not his call

By DOYLE MCMAUS

Los Angeles Times

A confession: I voted by mail recently. And it didn't feel dirty at all. Like every voter, I had been warned against the practice by President Donald Trump.

"Mail-in ballots are very dangerous," he said. "There's tremendous fraud involved and tremendous liability."

"You get thousands and thousands of people sitting in somebody's living room, signing ballots all over the place," he explained in April.

Busted! In our case, though, it was only three of us, not thousands. My wife, our daughter and I sat around a table, puzzled over the choices for Circuit Court and Board of Education, and shared a pen to sign the envelopes.

In our defense, we didn't have much choice. In Maryland, where I live, our governor, a moderate Republican named Larry Hogan, has asked for the funding would be too dangerous in a pandemic. Hogan closed most polling places and ordered counties to send mail-in ballots to every registered voter.

It seemed like a sensible precaution. But Trump objected so strongly that he threatened to block the funding from Michigan and Nevada if they follow the same course. Both states have Democratic governors; oddly, he didn't target any Republicans.

There's no real evidence to support the president's frequent charge that mail-in ballots lead to fraud. In large-scale, vote fraud in recent years happened in

North Carolina in 2018, but the problem wasn't mail-in ballots. It was "ballot harvesting," which allows campaign workers to collect ballots door-to-door. The culprit was a Republican.

Every so often, though, the president mentions a political objection too. Mail-in voting "doesn't work out well for Republicans," he tweeted last month. He said a Democratic proposal to require mail ballots nationwide would produce "levels of voting that, if you ever agreed to it, you'd never have a Republican elected in this country again."

Many Republican political strategists think Trump is right on that count — that if voting is made easier, more Democrats will participate.

"There's long been a fear that measures like automatic voter registration and vote by mail will help Democrats turn out more poor people and more black people," a longtime Republican strategist told me. (He demanded anonymity to speak frankly.) "There's a part of the GOP that is quite uncomfortable with voter suppression."

Republican political consultant John Brabender was more diplomatic. He said he believes mail-in voting will help Democrats because their voters turn out less consistently, especially in cities.

But he worries that Trump is hurting his own party by denouncing mail voting so fiercely. In states that allow mail voting, GOP leaders have been urging the party faithful to participate — only to be denounced by Trump supporters as turncoats.

"If we spend all our time criticizing vote

by mail, the results could become self-filling," he warned.

Ironically, voting by mail in its old-fashioned version, the absentee ballot, has traditionally been a Republican specialty.

GOP leaders in California, Arizona, Florida and other states have long urged their supporters, especially older voters, to vote by mail. Trump used an absentee ballot to vote in Florida's primary this year.

Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna Romney McDaniel says she still favors absentee voting — just not universal ballot distribution.

"We are really against ... the ballots being sent directly to people who may or may not want them," she explained.

In other words, voting by mail is fine — just as long as it isn't too easy.

But those nakedly political debates date from before the coronavirus made polling places hazardous to your health. What are states to do this fall, when we could be contending with a second wave of the pandemic? Can safety Trump gamesmanship?

Maybe. In many states, even Republican governors are heading the call for easy access to mail ballots, no matter what Trump says. Ohio, South Carolina and West Virginia have all expanded absentee voting. Even Florida, where Trump votes, has maintained relatively permissive rules.

The real challenge is likely to be funding. Mail-in elections will be costly for states and counties — not only from postage, but because they will need more people and machines to count millions of paper ballots.

It will be "a tsunami," predicted Richard

L. Hasen, an election law expert at University of California, Irvine. "These ballots are going to come whether the resources are there or not. And if the resources are not there, it increases the chances of a sloppy count and litigation, especially if the election result is close."

It may take days or weeks to count the ballots — a problem familiar to Californians, but not to the rest of the nation.

House Democrats have passed a pandemic relief bill that includes \$3.6 billion in election funding, but Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., has said he intends to block the measure.

Governors and state election officials are already forming bipartisan coalitions to try to wrangle new funding from Congress.

Running a clean election by mail shouldn't be hard. All it requires is funding, organization and vigilance against fraud. But the president and his campaign seem bent on making it harder than it needs to be. If the result is close, Trump will charge fraud. He did that even after he won in 2016.

Maybe it's projection; maybe the president really believes everyone's a cheater. Maybe it's just noise to keep his supporters fired up. Maybe he's laying the groundwork to contest the result if he loses.

Whatever the case, he's not only undermining the legitimacy of the election, he's doing it in the midst of the worst pandemic in a century. No wonder so many Republicans disagree with him on force.

Doyle McManus is a Washington columnist for the Los Angeles Times and director of the journalism program at Georgetown University.

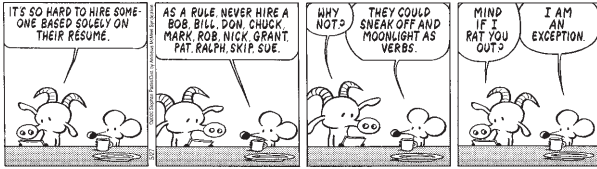
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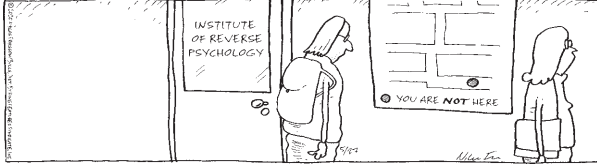
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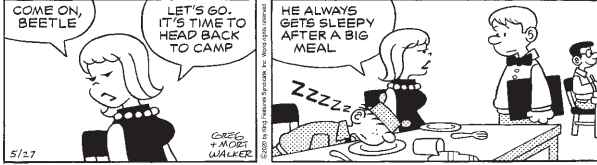
Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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ACROSS

- 1 Physique
- 4 Jazz singer James
- 8 Hip
- 12 Language suffix
- 13 Walked (on)
- 14 Swiss river
- 15 100%
- 16 Like some car cell phones
- 18 Eucalyptus eater
- 20 Command
- 21 To rover
- 21 Seth's son
- 24 Talked wildly
- 28 "Look this way!"
- 32 Sleuth Wolfe
- 33 Allow
- 34 Rental contract
- 36 Crater part
- 37 Teensy bit
- 39 Cold War competition
- 41 Dressed to the —
- 43 Computer pro
- 44 Insult, slangily
- 46 Cowboy's greeting
- 50 Returns to one's residence
- 55 Stephen of "Still Crazy"
- 56 Ellipse
- 57 Caesar's "vidi"
- 58 Sort

DOWN

- 59 Lighten
- 60 Crazy
- 61 Poetic contraction
- 23 Brainy
- 25 Aloe —
- 26 Guitarist Clapton
- 27 Rotunda top
- 28 Flair
- 29 Bigfoot's cousin
- 30 Thames town
- 31 Salinger girl
- 35 Shuns
- 38 Butt in
- 40 Pi follower
- 42 Bro's kin
- 45 Tibia's place
- 47 Legal document
- 48 Sub shop
- 49 Talks nonstop
- 50 Weeding tool
- 51 Actress Mendes
- 52 Small batteries
- 53 Buckeyes' sch.
- 54 Yoga pad

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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5-27

CRYPTOQUIP

UHBWKU HGT TKRSMXISONG

SWHS MKRXJSR QWKG H

QWNJK IOSB RSOGR SN WOLW

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Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN THOSE TWO SMALL DUCKS WERE ATTRACTED TO EACH OTHER, ONE SUGGESTED "LET'S MAKE A TEAL."

Today's Cryptquip Clue: W equals H

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL/BASEBALL

HBCUs brace for economic hit of no fans in stands

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
Associated Press

In the 100 years since the Southwestern Athletic Conference was formed, the conference home for some of the nation's most storied historically black colleges and universities has always found a way to do more with less.

So far, schools in the SWAC have avoided the salary cuts, furloughs and elimination of sports that institutions elsewhere have resorted to as the coronavirus shut down sports.

As the days tick by with no clear answer for what a football season might look like this year, SWAC Commissioner Charles McClelland is certain of one thing.

"If we don't have fans in the stands, from a revenue perspective it's going to be extremely difficult for us to have a football season," he said.

Teams in the SWAC as well as many other HBCUs across the country play in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS). Schools at this level earn some money from television contracts, but nothing like the multimillion-dollar deals for the Power Five.

In the SWAC, the main source of revenue from football comes from putting fans in the stands and there are no substitutes for that at schools that often have limited resources. The conference has led the FCS in average home attendance in 42 of the past 43 years at events where fans are entertained not only by the game, but the showmanship of their marching bands.

This fall, packing fans into stadiums at the 10 SWAC schools in five states from Texas to Alabama just might not be an option even if campuses are open.

McClelland said no decision

has been made on the possibility of playing without fans.

"But I can tell you (in) the Southwestern Athletic Conference, playing without fans would be a huge detriment to our overall business model, something we'd have to look at very significantly," he said. "Because if we don't have fans in the stands, it's going to be difficult for us to pay the bills to put on our program."

There are 107 HBCUs scattered across the country, and 21 of them play Division I sports, fielding teams in as few as 14 to as many as 18 sports each. Almost 6,000 students participate in sports at those institutions and thousands more play at the smaller HBCUs around the nation.

Prairie View A&M, which is located about 50 miles from Houston, led all HBCUs in sports revenue in 2018 by generating \$18.6 million, according to the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics. But that revenue ranks 149th among all college sports teams.

To put it in perspective, the 21 Division I HBCUs generated about \$214 million in revenue in 2018, while the University of Texas out-earned those schools alone, leading the nation in sports revenue with more than \$219 million that year.

In the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference, another conference with HBCUs that includes Howard and Florida A&M, Commissioner Dennis Thomas oversees a committee looking at how sports can return at its schools.

"The intercollegiate world does not know what the forecast is going to be in September," Thomas said. "We all are looking at different scenarios, different models. We all are trying to do our best to formulate financial



Southern drum major Keith Morgan, of New Orleans, performs with the band during a halftime show in 2015 against the University of Georgia in Athens, Ga. HBCUs across the country could take a huge financial hit if fans are banned from football games this fall.

'If we don't have fans in the stands ... it's going to be extremely difficult for us to have a football season.'

Charles McClelland
SWAC commissioner

policies, student-athlete policies just in case that we have a situation in the fall where it might be a reduced fall schedule."

Another concern for the FCS conferences: If football returns but nonconference games are canceled, smaller schools could lose a fortune. Many of these schools earn significant amounts of money to line up against Bowl Subdivision schools early in the season.

The SWAC has several such games on the schedule this year. Alcorn State, winner of the last two SWAC championships, is scheduled to open the season at Auburn on Sept. 5 with a team led by coach Fred McNair, brother of late Titans star Steve McNair, who also starred for the Braves.

Prairie View is set to visit TCU on Sept. 12 and Louisiana Tech on Sept. 19. Interim athletic director Alicia Pete said if the Panthers can't play those two games, the department would be forced to slash the budget. She's already spoken with the school's volleyball and soccer coaches to warn that they might have to cut their schedules to conference games only.

She also asked coaches of all 16 sports to submit plans with 20% budget cuts, just in case.

"If we're not able to have our game guarantees, that's really going to impact our budget," Pete said.

In the MEAC, some of the game-

guarantee contests come on Sept. 12 when Bethune-Cookman has a trip to South Florida and Howard is set to visit Arkansas State. Thomas said his conference can't worry about the cancellation of those games yet.

"It's premature at this time simply because I think around the end of May or first of June we will get some lucidity in terms of what the fall will look like," he said. "But if you were to extrapolate the impact of those guaranteed games for FCS, it would have a significant financial impact."

The Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association is home to 12 HBCUs in five states that play Division II sports. Commissioner Jackie McWilliams said the schools in her conference haven't had to make any cuts yet, but noted the financial challenges of fielding the required 10 sports.

The pandemic also caused the CIAA to rethink its business model of distributing any extra funds it has at the end of the year to its schools to provide scholarships. The league routinely funnels about \$1 million each year to schools for that purpose.

"We don't keep a fund balance because that money goes back," said McWilliams, who has been CIAA commissioner since 2012. "So, I think there's a lot of conversations we'll have with our board about whether we should be reserving some of those dollars a lot better."

KBO hands suspension to Kang for DUI cases

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The Korean Baseball Organization has suspended ex-Pittsburgh Pirates infielder Jung Ho Kang for a year and ordered him to perform 300 hours of community service over a series of drunk driving cases.

League organizers issued a statement saying the suspension will come into effect when Kang signs a contract with a club. The KBO said Kang earlier this month submitted an inquiry about a return to the South Korean baseball league and a letter of apology.

The 33-year-old Kang didn't attend Monday's disciplinary committee meeting.

Kang signed with Pittsburgh in January 2015, becoming the first position player to jump directly from the KBO to the majors.

He made a splash as a rookie, finishing third in Rookie of the Year voting after hitting 15 home runs. His season ended abruptly that September when he broke his leg after getting taken out at second base by Chris Coghlan of the Chicago Cubs.

Kang returned in 2016 and hit 21 home runs before his career went into a tailspin after getting arrested in Seoul in December 2016 on charges of driving under the influence of alcohol. Kang had two previous DUI cases in 2009 and 2011, according to the KBO.

Kang received a two-year suspended sentence, spent the entire 2017 season on the restricted list after being unable to secure a visa back to the U.S. and played in just three games at the end of the 2018 season. The Pirates initially cut him before bringing him back on a one-year deal worth \$3 million for the 2019 season, when he hit 169 with 10 home runs and had 24 RBIs in 65 games.

The KBO said the latest disciplinary sanction was imposed because Kang undermined the KBO's image, disappointed fans and caused public concern.



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

Former Pittsburgh Pirates infielder Jung Ho Kang was suspended for a year by the Korean Baseball Organization and ordered to perform 300 hours of community service over a series of drunk driving cases.



JOHN AMIS, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP

North Carolina A&T coach Sam Washington is doused by defensive back Jakon Bethune during the final seconds of his team's Dec. 21 Celebration Bowl win over Alcorn State in Atlanta.

NFL



MARK TENALY/AP

Some NFL quarterbacks are still finding ways to hold throwing sessions with receivers during the coronavirus pandemic, though things look much different. Detroit quarterback Matthew Stafford, above, has thrown to Lions receivers Kenny Golladay and Danny Amendola in California. He connected with Lions tight end Isaac Nauta and rookies D'Andre Swift and Quintez Cephus in the Atlanta area.

Passing the time

QB's finding ways to hook up with receivers

By ROB MAADDI
Associated Press

Some NFL quarterbacks are still finding ways to hold throwing sessions with receivers during the coronavirus pandemic, though things look much different.

Players are keeping it simple and sticking to football instead of the annual weeklong bonding trips that have included sleepovers, cookouts, fishing, golfing and other activities.

Detroit's Matthew Stafford has thrown to Lions receivers Kenny Golladay and Danny Amendola in California. He connected with Lions tight end Isaac Nauta and rookies D'Andre Swift and Quintez Cephus in the Atlanta area.

"We're limiting the amount of people that are there," Stafford said. "Obviously, it's only the guy throwing and the guys catching."

Stafford has changed his routine between throws to avoid spreading germs.

"I'm honestly making a conscious effort to try not to lick my fingers before I get the ball or throw it," he said. "All those kinds of things are things that I would have never thought I would have had to think about."

After workouts, Stafford and his group are not giving high-fives, bumping fists or hugging.

"Everybody would just kind of click cleats at the end and say, 'Appreciate you running, appreciate you throwing' and move on," Stafford said. "So doing everything we can to try to stay safe. Obviously, I have three little ones and a pregnant wife at home, so it's at the forefront of my mind to make sure that I'm staying safe."

Quarterbacks often organize passing workouts before training camp. They use that time together to build chemistry with new receivers and it's an overall bonding experience.

Philadelphia's Carson Wentz held workouts with teammates in his hometown in North Dakota in 2017. Last year, he invited them to his house in Texas.

Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott got together

last July with wideouts Amari Cooper and Randall Cobb and tight end Jason Witten along with other players.

"The training is one thing," Prescott said after the trip. "You're going out there, spending a few hours training, hammering it, talking about how I want you here on this route or what I'm thinking on this route, and vice versa. But when you leave there, play a couple rounds of golf, you have dinner, those type of things, those conversations. The tight ends getting to know the receivers better. Me getting to know them better."

'We're limiting the amount of people that are there. Obviously, it's only the guy throwing and the guys catching.'

Matthew Stafford
Lions QB

"All that pays off in the end when it comes to crunch time in a game. You can look at a guy and you know you put in time, that camaraderie, and you create a relationship that it's easy at that point."

Social distancing and sheltering at home rules have canceled those types of gatherings. Any throwing sessions now are important because teams are holding virtual meetings instead of traditional offseason programs.

Last week, Tom Brady and several of his new teammates on the Buccaneers worked out in Tampa. Center Ryan Jensen was there along with receivers Mike Evans and Scotty Miller, tight ends Cameron Brate and O.J. Howard, running back Dane Ogunbowale and quarterbacks Blaine Gabbert and Ryan Griffin.

Tennessee's Ryan Tannehill has been working out with tight end Jonnu Smith for two months at a local park in Florida.

"Not illegally, we're not breaking any rules, it's privately owned," Smith said. "We're getting all the work in that we can. ... Ryan is making me better, I'm making him better, and we're just building that chemistry on anything you can imagine as far as what it takes to be a quarterback, a receiver, tight end. Just going on certain things to get each other better. It's been great work, we've been able to maximize the most of our opportunity. I love doing it and I love working with him."

AP pro football writers Teresa M. Walker and Schuyler Dixon and sports writers Larry Lage and John Wawrow contributed.

Defiant: One-year deal reunites Gore with Gase

FROM BACK PAGE

Gore signed a one-year deal worth \$1.05 million with the Jets two weeks ago, reuniting with coach Adam Gase — something the running back said was a major factor in him coming to New York. The two first worked together when Gase was an offensive assistant with the 49ers in 2008. They developed a bond and Gase told Gore if he ever got a head coaching job, he'd love for Gore to play for him.

In 2018, Gase made it happen with the Dolphins. Two years later, they are back together.

"I was 35 and once you touch that 30-mark, guys don't really want to give you an opportunity, give you a chance," Gore said. "He stuck by his word and brought me to Miami. We won some games. ... He's very smart, he's real, and he's a man of his word."

The opportunity to play with quarterback Sam Darnold — "I'm very excited" — on a team with a defense that includes safety Jamal Adams — "I think he's a top safety in this league. I love the way he comes to play every down, every game" — also played roles in Gore choosing the Jets.

Gore has yet to speak with Bell since signing with New York, but insists the two will be fine working in the same backfield. They have known each other for several years, and train in the same area in Florida. Gore also sought out Bell last season after the regular-season finale to get his jersey to frame for his wall.

"I respect his game and I respect the way he prepares himself to get ready for the season," Gore said. "I've been around a bunch of talented running backs my whole career, even in college, the NFL. I'm going to do whatever it takes to help him, help the other guys and also help the team be successful on Sundays."

Gore is on his third AFC East team in as many seasons; New England's the only squad for which he hasn't played. The Patriots have won 11 straight division titles, but many think that streak could end without Tom Brady at quarterback.

Count Gore among them.

By the numbers

15,347

Number of yards running back Frank Gore has gained rushing over 15 NFL seasons.

4.3

Yards per carry Gore has averaged during his career.

3rd

Where Gore ranks on the all-time rushing list, behind Emmitt Smith and Walter Payton.

SOURCE: NFL.com

"Brady's gone, and it's wide open," he said.

Despite losing playing time last season in Buffalo to rookie Devin Singletary and posting career lows in yards rushing with 599 and yards per carry (3.6), retirement was never part of Gore's plans.

"Because when I was playing the first six or seven games, I was balling," Gore said. "Once Buffalo started playing a younger guy, I felt like I still could do it. I just had to see what team would give me an opportunity."

Gore also got all the reassurance he needed from his oldest son, Frank Jr., also a running back who's entering his freshman year at Southern Miss.

"He said, 'I think you could go one more,'" Gore Sr. recalled. "So, I said, all right, I'm going to go."



ADRIAN KRAUS/AP

Entering his first season with the New York Jets, running back Frank Gore is feeling fresh and ready to help carry the load.

NHL/SPORTS BRIEFS

Small-group training planned

NHL hopes to have players in facilities and on ice early next month

Associated Press

TORONTO — The NHL hopes to have players back in team facilities soon — with plenty of precautions.

The league, which paused its season on March 12 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, released a memo Monday saying it is targeting early next month as the start date for Phase 2 of its return-to-play protocol, including the opening of practice rinks and allowing small, voluntary group workouts on and off the ice.

"It has not yet been determined when precisely Phase 2 will start or how long it may last," the memo said. "We are continuing to monitor developments in each of the club's markets, and may adjust the overall timing if appropriate, following discussion with all relevant parties."

The NHL, which has worked closely with the NHL Players' Association on the phased approach, said that while it views the protocol as "very comprehensive ... (it) cannot mitigate all risk."

"A range of clinical scenarios exist, from very mild to fatal outcome," the 22-page memo continued. "COVID-19 generally affects older age groups and those with previously existing medical conditions, more so than younger, and otherwise healthy, individuals."

"We recognize that players and personnel have family and household members who may fall into these vulnerable categories."

If the Phase 2 plan gets the green light, on-ice sessions will be noncontact and involve up to six players, who will be expected to maintain physical distancing at

all times. Players will be required to wear masks when entering and exiting facilities, and when not able to physically distance.

"Players are not required to wear face coverings when they are exercising or on the ice," the memo said.

Teams are not allowed to require a player to return to a club's home city to complete any necessary quarantine measures before the workouts begin. Coaches and management will be allowed to watch, but not participate in, the informal skates.

The final two phases of the return-to-play protocol — training camps followed by a resumption of game action — were not mentioned in the memo. Phase 1, which continues after a number of extensions, saw players advised to self-quarantine after the coronavirus paused most of the sports world some 10 weeks ago.

The NHL/NHLPA Return to Play Committee has been hashing out details of what the game will look like if it's allowed to return this summer. The union's executive board approved further negotiations on a 24-team format Friday.

The Phase 2 memo made public Monday also states players and staff will be administered COVID-19 nasal swab tests two days before training begins and will be tested twice a week afterward. They must perform daily self-administered temperature and symptom checks at home before heading to their team's facility.

Clubs must also administer "a separate temperature and symptom check at the entrance of the club facility."

Players who live in NHL markets other than where they play will be permitted to use local facilities, pending availability, meaning they won't have to travel back to their team's home cities for Phase 2.

Most NHL players have not been on the ice since the league halted its schedule, although some, including a number of Swedish players who returned home, have been skating in recent weeks.

The league said any player or staff member who develops COVID-19 symptoms, including cough, shortness of breath, chest pain, fever/chills, muscle pain (not exercise-related), loss of smell or taste, cold-like symptoms or gastrointestinal symptoms, are expected to notify medical officials immediately and self-isolate.

If a COVID-19 test comes back positive, the player/staff member's team will conduct contact tracing in conjunction with local health regulations.

Apart from laying out the groundwork for Phase 2 and continuing discussions on the 24-team format, plenty of other hurdles remain before the games will be allowed to resume.

Should the NHL return sometime this summer, it's almost certain teams will be clustered in hub cities across North America — Vancouver, Edmonton, Toronto and Las Vegas are believed to be in the mix — with games being held in empty arenas.

The Stanley Cup has been awarded every year since 1893, save for 1919 because of the Spanish flu outbreak, and 2005 when a lockout led to the cancellation of the entire season.



KAMRAN JEBREILI/AP

If World TeamTennis gets its way, Grand Slam champions Sofia Kenin, above, and Sloane Stephens could compete in front of fans. WTT said Tuesday it is planning to allow up to 500 spectators at its outdoor matches during a three-week season this summer.

Briefly

World TeamTennis plans to have fans

Associated Press

If World TeamTennis gets its way, Grand Slam champions Sofia Kenin and Sloane Stephens could be among the first tennis players to compete in front of fans after the coronavirus pandemic prompted lockdowns around the globe.

WTT said Tuesday it is planning to allow up to 500 spectators at each of its outdoor matches during a three-week season from July 12 to Aug. 2 at a resort in West Virginia.

The league also announced an increase in total prize money to \$5 million this year, \$1.5 million more than for its 2019 season.

All tennis events sanctioned by the ATP, WTA and International Tennis Federation are on hold until at least late July because of the COVID-19 outbreak. That includes the French Open, which was supposed to have started its 15-day main draw Sunday but was postponed until September.

But WTT is not affiliated with those tours and does not need to abide by their decisions about when it is OK to compete.

World TeamTennis is bringing all nine of its teams to one site — The Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, W.V. — instead of having matches played around the United States.

And unlike smaller exhibition tennis events that have been staged without any fans, WTT intends to sell tickets for one-fifth of a 2,500-seat outdoor stadium.

WTT CEO Carlos Silva said in a recent interview he has been monitoring other sports events taking place to see how they handled health protocols, including UFC fights and NASCAR racing.

Among the players the WTT said will participate in its matches are Kenin, who won the Australian Open in January, before sanctioned tennis was suspended because of the virus in March; Stephens, the 2017 U.S. Open champion and 2018 French Open runner-up; and twins Bob and Mike Bryan, who have won 16

Grand Slam titles in men's doubles as a team.

Ewing out of hospital after COVID-19

Georgetown basketball coach and former NBA great Patrick Ewing has been released from the hospital and is recovering from COVID-19 at home, his son said Monday.

The 57-year-old Hall of Famer, who played for the Hoyas in college and the New York Knicks in the NBA, announced Friday that he had tested positive for the coronavirus and was being treated at a hospital.

Patrick Ewing Jr. said three days later on Twitter that his father was getting better after receiving treatment and thanked the doctors and nurses who looked after him during his hospital stay. He also thanked fans for their thoughts and prayers after his father's announcement.

"My father is now home and getting better," Ewing Jr. wrote.

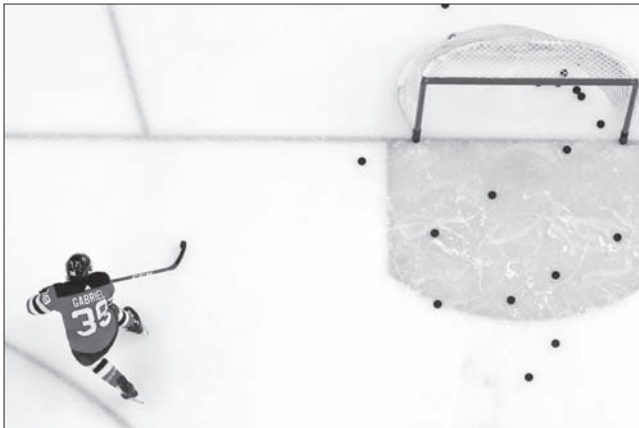
Dolphins owner: There will be an NFL season

MIAMI — Miami Dolphins owner Stephen Ross says he's confident the NFL will play in 2020, with or without spectators.

"I think there definitely will be a football season this year," Ross said Tuesday during an interview on CNBC. "The real question is will there be fans in the stadiums?"

The NFL has said it expects to play a full schedule beginning Sept. 10, but is preparing contingency plans in case the coronavirus pandemic makes venue changes or games without fans necessary.

"Right now, today, we're planning on having some fans in the stadiums," Ross said. "But I think the NFL is very flexible so that we will be able to start on time and bring that entertainment that is really so needed to all of us in this country."



JULIO CORTES/AP

The NHL is hoping to move to Phase 2 of its return-to-play protocol, including the opening of practice facilities and allowing small group workouts, early next month. The league released a 22-page memo detailing the plan on Monday. The document stresses there's no exact date for the start of Phase 2 or a timetable for how long it will last.

AUTO RACING

Working OT: Busch overcomes penalty to win

Last-lap pass gives driver his 97th career Xfinity Series victory

By STEVE REED
Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. — Kyle Busch normally celebrates his victories by climbing on top of his race car and bowing to the crowd.

But with no fans in attendance at Charlotte Motor Speedway on Monday night due to the coronavirus pandemic, Busch passed on the tradition after driving past Austin Cindric on the final lap of overtime to claim his 97th career Xfinity Series win.

"It kinda felt a little odd," Busch said. "I guess I could have bowed to the camera."

After a crash involving several cars sent the race into overtime, Cindric had a great restart in overtime and overtook Busch for the lead starting from the inside lane. But Busch battled back, driving by Cindric on the backstretch of the final lap and holding on to win his 18th overall race at CMS.

"I thought choosing the outside was the right way but obviously it wasn't. I don't know," Busch said. "Those guys put up a whale of a fight tonight on restarts. I guess I'm not good at it anymore."

Cindric thought he had Busch beat.

"To almost beat one of the best in the business on worse tires, I never lifted. I never lifted until I knew I was done," Cindric said. "I wanted to win so bad."

Busch has won 210 races overall across NASCAR's top three series, the most of any driver.

Daniel Hemric edged Cindric for second. Cindric finished third, followed by Ross Chastain and Justin Allgaier.

Busch appeared in control for most of the race, winning the first two stages, but was assessed a speeding penalty on pit row with 38 laps to go, dropping him to 10th place.

But Busch was far from done. He battled back through the field with the help of a series of strong restarts on the six cautions over the final 45 laps.

The tungsten is required to meet minimum weight requirements on the car and the NASCAR rule book states if it is separated



PHOTOS BY GERRY BROOME/AP

Above: Kyle Busch pits during the NASCAR Xfinity Series race at Charlotte Motor Speedway on Monday in Concord, N.C. Below: Busch celebrates his win, minus his traditional bow to the crowd.



passed me and I was like, 'Oh man I don't know if I can get back to him,'" Busch said. But Cindric got a little loose between turns one and two and Busch was able to make a pass.

Busch drove a No. 54 Toyota sponsored by the Appalachian State University class of 2020.

"Hopefully this will lift your spirits... we won one for you," Busch said to the App State students who didn't get to have a traditional graduation ceremony due to the coronavirus.

Busch is in the midst of running all seven races in 11 days at Darlington and Charlotte since

NASCAR returned to action after being sidelined for two months because of the coronavirus.

It was a tough night for Darlington winner Chase Briscoe, who finished 20th.

Briscoe, who was looking for his third Xfinity Series win of the season, drew penalties for an uncontrolled tire and speeding on pit road and then sustained damage to his car after hitting the wall with 45 laps to go when Timmy Hill's engine blew up. Things went from bad to worse when he suffered damage to the right front of his car with 28 laps to go.

Jeffrey Earnhardt pulled out of his pits too early and wound up turning a lap with a jack welded under his car.

It was the second of four races in four days at the 1½-mile track at Charlotte.

Brad Keselowski won the Coca-Cola 600 on Sunday night in overtime after a late caution flag cost Chase Elliott an almost certain victory. The Truck Series returns to the track for the first time in more than three months on Tuesday night, followed by another Cup race on Wednesday.

Scoreboard

ALSCO 300	
Monday	
At Charlotte Motor Speedway	
Concord, N.C.	
Lap length: 1.50 miles	
(Start position in parentheses)	
1. (8) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 203 laps, 0 points.	
2. (12) Daniel Hemric, Chevrolet, 203, 41.	
3. (6) Austin Cindric, Ford, 203, 46.	
4. (1) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 201, 51.	
5. (4) Justin Allgaier, Chevrolet, 203, 32.	
6. (22) Brett Moffitt, Chevrolet, 203, 0.	
7. (9) Michael Annett, Chevrolet, 203, 30.	
8. (15) Brandon Brown, Chevrolet, 203, 29.	
9. (11) Harrison Burton, Toyota, 203, 30.	
10. (17) Myatt Snider, Chevrolet, 203, 27.	
11. (10) Noah Gragson, Chevrolet, 203, 39.	
12. (5) Riley Herbst, Toyota, 202, 32.	
13. (19) Dillon Bassett, Chevrolet, 201, 24.	
14. (21) Josh Williams, Chevrolet, 201, 23.	
15. (34) Jesse Little, Chevrolet, 201, 22.	
16. (37) Alex Labbe, Chevrolet, 201, 21.	
17. (14) BJ McLeod, Chevrolet, 200, 20.	
18. (36) Bayley Currey, Chevrolet, 200, 0.	
19. (28) Joe Graf Jr., Chevrolet, 200, 18.	
20. (8) Chase Briscoe, Ford, 200, 28.	
21. (30) Mason Massey, Toyota, 200, 16.	
22. (13) Chad Finchum, Toyota, 200, 15.	
23. (16) Vinnie Miller, Chevrolet, 199, 14.	
24. (32) Tommy Joe Martins, Chevrolet, 198.	
25. (3) Justin Haley, Chevrolet, 198, 12.	
26. (31) Joe Nemecek, Chevrolet, 198, 0.	
27. (2) Brandon Jones, Toyota, accident, 197.	
28. (7) Ryan Sieg, Chevrolet, 197, 9.	
29. (3) Justin Haley, Chevrolet, accident, 196, 18.	
30. (33) Matt Mills, Chevrolet, 196, 7.	
31. (24) Garrett Smithley, Chevrolet, 193, 6.	
32. (27) Jeremy Clements, Chevrolet, accident, 176, 5.	
33. (26) Austin Hill, Toyota, accident, 173, 0.	
34. (25) Timmy Hill, Toyota, engine, 151, 0.	
35. (35) Kody Vanderwal, Chevrolet, engine, 2.	
36. (20) Jeff Green, Chevrolet, garage, 1.	
37. (29) Colby Howard, Chevrolet, overhauling, 1.	
Average speed of race winner: 111.79 mph.	
Time of race: 2 hours, 43 minutes, 30 seconds.	
Margin of victory: 0.178 seconds.	
Caution flags: 11 for 53 laps.	
Lead changes: 20 among 5 drivers.	
Lap leaders: R.Chastain 0-31; K.Busch 32-37; R.Chastain 33-37; K.Busch 38-50; R.Chastain 51-54; K.Busch 55-62; R.Chastain 63-80; K.Busch 81-98; R.Chastain 99-103; M.Annett 104-108; A.Cindric 109-149; M.Annett 150-158; A.Cindric 159-174; N.Gragson 175; A.Cindric 176-182; N.Gragson 183; A.Cindric 184-189; K.Busch 190-201; A.Cindric 202; K.Busch 203.	
Leaders summary (driver, times, led laps): K.Busch, 1; R.Chastain, 1; M.Annett, 6 times for 68 laps; A.Cindric, 4 times for 30 laps; M.Annett, 1 time for 9 laps; N.Gragson, 2 times for 2 laps.	
Wins: R.Chastain, 2; H.Burton, 1; M.Annett, 1.	
Top 16 in points: 1. C.Briscoe, 251; 2. C.Haley, 186; 3. R.Chastain, 239; 4. H.Burton, 234; 5. N.Gragson, 232; 6. J.Allgaier, 218; 7. R.Sieg, 192; 8. B.Jones, 188; 9. M.Annett, 187; 10. R.Herbst, 160; 12. B.Brown, 144; 13. J.Williams, 127; 16. M.Snider, 108.	

Hamlin crew members suspended 4 races for tungsten drop

By JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — NASCAR on Monday suspended three critical crew members for Denny Hamlin's team because a piece of tungsten fell off his car on the pace lap before the Coca-Cola 600.

The tungsten is required to meet minimum weight requirements on the car and the NASCAR rule book states if it is separated

at any point it is an automatic four-race suspension for the crew chief, car chief and engineer.

Chris Gabehart, the crew chief, was suspended along with car chief Brandon Griffith and engineer Scott Simmons.

Joe Gibbs Racing said it would not appeal the penalty and already had roster replacements for Wednesday night's race at Charlotte Motor Speedway. Sam McAulay will be the crew chief, while Eric Phillips

will be car chief and Scott Eldridge the engineer.

NASCAR's next four races are at Charlotte, Bristol, Atlanta and Martinsville between Wednesday night and June 10, when the suspension ends. NASCAR is trying to squeeze in eight postponed Cup events from a 10-week suspension for the coronavirus pandemic.

The piece of ballast and costs \$1,877 from

the supplier. It fell off the Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota before the start of Sunday's race and Hamlin went to pit road for additional weight to be added back to the car. He didn't join the race until eight laps had been completed.

He rallied to a 29th-place finish in the 40-car field.

Hamlin won not only the season-opening Daytona 500 but also won last Wednesday night at Darlington Raceway.

SPORTS

Last-lap pass

Busch rallies late to win
Xfinity race in overtime » Page 23

NFL

DEFIANT

At 37, Gore still expects
to be contributor for JetsBy DENNIS WASZAK JR.
Associated Press

NEW YORK

Frank Gore just keeps running — defying logic and Father Time with each hard-fought yard.

At 37 years old, the star running back is considered ancient in football terms, playing a position at which most guys his age and with his workload would have been long retired.

But Gore is preparing for his 16th NFL season, this one with the New York Jets. He's No. 3 on the league's career rushing list with 15,347 yards, behind only Emmitt Smith and Walter Payton. And, he doesn't believe he's anywhere near finished.

"I really don't think about age," Gore said during a Zoom call Thursday. "It's the way I train. I love to stay around younger guys at the position, just to look at myself, to be honest with myself."

Gore has made a career of being a smart, tough runner whose workout regimen impresses all who have coached or played with him. During his 10 years in San Francisco, three in Indianapolis and then one-year stints in Miami and Buffalo, Gore has challenged himself to stay at a high level. And he has been productive at every stop.

With the Jets, he'll likely be behind Le'Veon Bell in a backfield that will also include rookie La'Mical Perine. For a bell-cow back who has led his team in carries every season, that lessened workload will be a bit of a change.

"I'm cool," Gore insisted. "I'm happy to even be playing this game at my age. I'm happy that this organization gave me an opportunity. But I'm just going to come in here, come work and help all the young guys and show those young guys I still can play."

SEE DEFIANT ON PAGE 21

Inside:

■ Quarterbacks holding passing sessions without regular bonding activities, Page 31



ADRIAN KRAUS, ABOVE, AND WILFREDO LEE, LEFT/AP

Above: Buffalo Bills running back Frank Gore picks up yardage against the Denver Broncos on Nov. 24. Left: Gore played for current New York Jets coach Adam Gase two years ago in Miami.

NHL play to have players in facilities in June » Page 22

